

Ashrawi urges more PLO democracy

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi returned to the occupied territories Sunday and renewed calls for wider democracy within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). "This is a new phase which requires structures and work procedures that are democratic and places the appropriate people with the right qualifications in the right positions," Dr. Ashrawi told AFP. This has to be done by the institution itself internally and the PLO is doing this. "There are serious people within the PLO who are working towards these ends." She was speaking on her return from Washington where she is expected to become the head of the PLO's U.S. bureau. The comments came amid controversy over Chairman Yasser Arafat's appointment of the Palestine Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction following the Sept. 13 autonomy agreement with Israel. Several economists on the council complained that the PLO's "interim authority in complete charge of all aid programmes" was staffed with politicians and too few competent technicians. Mr. Arafat is council president, his deputy Farouk Kaddoumi the vice president.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Syndicate Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرابطة

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Volume 18 Number 5462

AMMAN MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1993, JUMADA AL THANI 1, 1414

Price: 150 Fils

Jordan mediates in Yemen crisis

AMMAN (R) — King Hussein sent a top envoy to Yemen to try to prevent a North-South political crisis tearing the country apart. Arab diplomats said Sunday. Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker flew to Yemen on a brief unpublished trip Wednesday and held separate meetings with President Ali Abdullah Saleh in Sanaa and Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beedh in Aden, they added. Sharif Zeid handed Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beedh letters from King Hussein urging them to show restraint and resort to dialogue to resolve the worst crisis in three years of unity.

Qatar opens phone links to W. Bank

DOHA (AP) — Qatar announced Sunday it was opening direct telephone links with the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, becoming the first Arab country in the Gulf to do so. The General Organisation for Communications and Telecommunications, in a statement to the official Qatar News Agency, said the plan would be effective immediately. The agency quoted an unidentified source as saying the measure was adopted "out of consideration for the importance of linking Palestinian residents with their families" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. There are an estimated 35,000 Palestinians among the expatriate work force in Qatar, which has an overall population of some 400,000.

U.S. resumes visa service in Beirut

BEIRUT (AFP) — The U.S. consulate here resumed a limited visa service Sunday after a nine-year interruption, a senior U.S. diplomat said. "It is not a full reopening of the consular section in Lebanon. It is the opening of visa services for a limited number of visitors," said U.S. Charge d'Affairs Vincent Battle. He said he expected some 50,000-60,000 Lebanese to benefit from the decision. Only Lebanese who had obtained visas in the past would be eligible. Mr. Battle said the move was "a first step" toward the restoration of full consular services, which were halted in September 1984 following two attacks on the U.S. embassy.

Iraq seeks lifting of U.N. sanctions

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said its high-level talks with United Nations officials starting Monday were aimed at a complete lifting of sanctions imposed over its conquest of Kuwait. Baghdad newspapers said General Amir Mohammad Rashid, director of Iraq's Military-Industrial Authority, would lead the Iraqi side at the technical talks in New York to pave the way for a visit by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz. "It is expected that these talks will be a prelude to political talks to be conducted at higher levels next week," they said Sunday.

Israel, Turkey plan free trade zone

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Sunday Israel and Turkey would set up working groups to look into establishing a free trade zone. "We agreed to set up joint working groups in order to reach that objective," Mr. Peres told Israel's army radio after talks with Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin. Mr. Peres said both countries would have to ensure that a free trade zone between them would not contradict existing agreements with other countries. "But it seems to me it is a good chance," he said. Mr. Cetin arrived in Israel on Saturday for a three-day visit to discuss bilateral ties and the Middle East peace process.

PLO: No self-rule agreement without release of prisoners

CAIRO (Agencies) — A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said Sunday the PLO would not sign a peace agreement with Israel on schedule next month unless Israel gave a written commitment to free thousands of Palestinian detainees.

Nabil Shaath, leader of the Palestinian team negotiating the detailed agreement on Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, was speaking to a news conference after three days of discussions among 27 Israeli, Palestinian and American peace activists.

"We want the Israeli side to release these prisoners as soon as possible. I don't think the Israeli government should delay this under any pretext," he said.

"Believe me, in December this agreement will not be signed if we don't have a written commitment on the release of prisoners. I assure you I will not be a party to its signature without a full commitment on the release of all prisoners," Mr. Shaath said.

Under a declaration of principles signed by the PLO and Israel in September, the Gaza-Jericho agreement is due to be signed by Dec. 13.

Dr. Shaath said the PLO had obtained several verbal commitments from Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and other officials that the release would be forthcoming.

Israel has so far freed some 600 prisoners detained since the Palestinian uprising began against Israel in 1987.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Israel held only 9,500 Palestinian prisoners. Israel press reports have spoken about 13,000 prisoners and detainees and the PLO has demanded the release of between 12,000 and 13,000.

Dr. Shaath said the sixth round of PLO-Israeli talks would resume in Cairo on Monday and Tuesday in a secret location and away of from the press to end differences over the Israeli withdrawal and security arrangements, the main obstacles in the negotiations.

The PLO-Israeli negotiations, which began in the

Egyptian Red Sea resort of Tabu in October, were suspended two weeks ago after the Palestinian delegates walked out saying the Israeli withdrawal did not go far enough.

But following an Egyptian mediation, both sides resumed talks in Cairo last Monday and announced a breakthrough after two days.

The PLO said Israel agreed to cut the number of its troops in Gaza in what amounted to a withdrawal rather than a redeployment.

Asked whether there would be a meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Cairo before the Dec. 13 deadline, Dr. Shaath said:

"I really don't know exactly when. I know that they have decided they want to meet. The whole question is when they should be meeting and it has to be before the 13th of December to iron the last obstacles," he added.

Knesset member Abdul

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Arafat presses ahead with self-rule plans

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat forged ahead Sunday with efforts to set up a Palestinian authority in the Israeli-occupied territories, after condemning the killing of a Jewish settler there.

The Revolutionary Council of his Fatah faction ended talks here on setting up the interim self-rule authority and on preparations for Monday's talks with Israeli officials in Cairo on breaking an impasse over the Israeli army's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

Fatah has named "action committees" to oversee the Palestinian takeover for the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, the PLO news agency WAFA said.

Fatah also formally approved the peace agreement between Israel and the PLO. It was its first meeting since the agreement was signed in Washington on Sept. 13.

PLO officials told Reuters the committees would oversee the transition from Israeli to Palestinian control pending formation of a Palestinian National Authority.

Israeli troops are to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho over a four-month period starting on Dec. 13. Palestinians are also due to gain limited self-rule in the rest of the West Bank.

"The council issued a decision forming action committees to execute the urgent national missions within the building of the Palestinian National Authority. They (the committees) are to start their work immediately," WAFA said.

Preparing to establish law and order in the territories, the Fatah council, chaired by Mr. Arafat, discussed the composition of the 19-member interim authority and financial arrangements for it, Palestinian sources said.

They said Mr. Arafat would head the new body, with Fatah members making up nearly half of it. It is to begin work in January, after the scheduled Dec. 13 start of an Israeli withdrawal.

The Fatah council, which began meeting Friday, also discussed preparations for Monday's talks in Cairo on the scope of the withdrawal from Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

The talks stalled earlier this month when Palestinian officials complained the Israelis were simply redeploying their troops and not withdrawing them.

The Fatah leadership also discussed security problems, following allegations that a high-ranking PLO official, Adnan Yassin, spied for Israel. He has been detained since October.

The PLO Executive Committee, also chaired by Mr. Arafat, held a series of parallel discussions on the same issues.

Some participants in the Fatah council meeting called for more democracy in Palestinian institutions.

Mr. Arafat meanwhile played down the case of Mr. Yassin in an interview published Sunday.

"The affair was exaggerated because it is part of Israel's attempts to infiltrate Palestinian ranks since the Palestinian revolution began," Mr. Arafat told the Saudi newspaper Al Sharq Al Awsat.

"We are vigilant," Mr. Arafat said. He did not mention the results of the investigation into the case but said several spies had been executed in the past.

Economic talks

If the Israel-Palestinian economic summit, which opens in Paris on Tuesday, is not successful the whole autonomy deal is in danger, Israeli Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said Sunday.

"I hope this will be the basis for economic life between us and the Palestinians which is essential in order for the peace agreement to be successful," Mr. Shohat told a press conference.

"This includes everything that is collateral to the daily problems of economic life... agriculture, industry, taxation, imports and investment," said the minister, who will lead a delegation in talks with a Palestinian team led by PLO economic department chief Ahmad Koria.

It is the first meeting of a joint committee set up under the Sept. 13 autonomy agreement.

"Without finishing these negotiations in Paris it will be very hard to finish the military and civilian negotiations in Tabu," Mr. Shohat said.

Netanyahu under fire

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Benjamin Netanyahu, the opposition Likud Party leader, has come under fire from fellow right-wingers for harking "slight territorial concessions" on the Golan Heights.

"What a pity the Likud is caught up in the euphoria of the agreement with the PLO and is turning its back on its own manifesto and on hundreds of thousands of its voters," Rafael Eitan, head of the far-right Tsomet party, told reporters Saturday.

Golan settlers issued a statement urging Mr. Netanyahu to stick to his party's traditional position against yielding any territory to Syria on the strategic plateau.

"It's very grave indeed that the head of the movement should come out with such an announcement," said Ron Nachman, Likud MP and mayor of the West Bank settlement of Ariel.

Mr. Netanyahu said in a television interview on Friday night: "If the prime minister had spoken of those cosmetic changes, those famous centimetres of which he spoke before the elections in referring to the Golan, I don't think he would have had any problem with me and my party."

Before the 1993 elections Mr. Rabin said that Israel did not have to hang on to every centimetre of the Golan and only after winning power spoke of a partial withdrawal in return for "total" peace with Damascus.

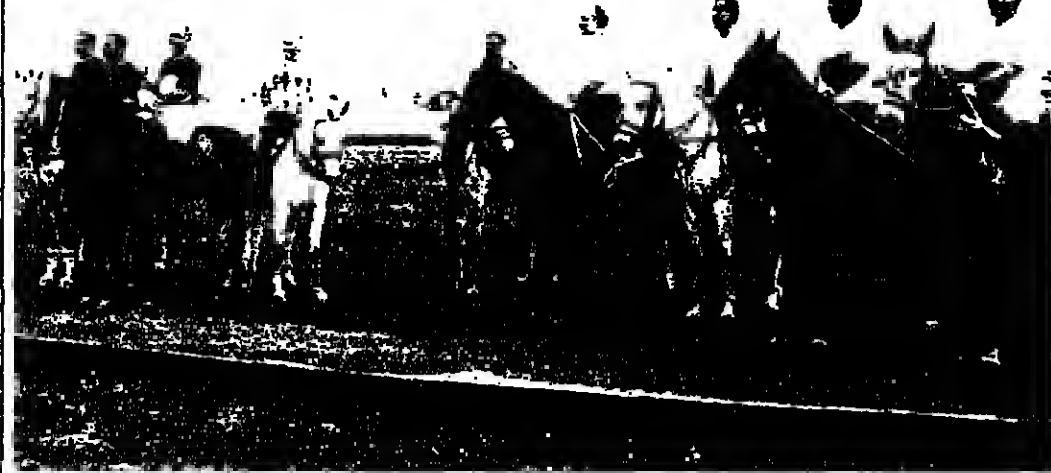
However, two years of negotiations have stalled over Syria's demand for a prior Israeli commitment to withdraw totally and Israel's demand for a Syrian pledge to agree to full peace before negotiating the scale of withdrawal.

Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas said Saturday Israel was mistaken if it thought the Arabs could be forced into giving up their land and rights and accused it of trying to derail the peace process.

Addressing a graduation ceremony for officers, General Tlas said Israel was resorting to "manoeuvres, camouflage and deception to channel the peace process" away from its normal course during bilateral Israeli-Arab negotiations.

"Israel harbours illusions if

(Continued on page 10)



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday plays polo in Zarqa as part of celebrations marking His Majesty King Hussein's birthday

King Hussein turns 58

AMMAN (J.T.) — Streets throughout Jordan were bedecked with huge portraits of His Majesty King Hussein Sunday to celebrate the Monarch's 58th birthday.

King Hussein spent the national holiday at the Aqaba Royal Palace overlooking the Red Sea with Her Majesty Queen Noor, most of his 11 children and his grandchildren.

Prince Charles of Britain, who is touring Arab countries, was expected to attend a private birthday party in the evening at the palace in Aqaba.

The streets were festively lit and buildings swathed in photos of the Monarch, while television and radio broadcast day-long programmes reviewing the King's life and Jordanian history.

Newspapers marked the occasion with colour photographs, their columnists paying tribute to the Monarch.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan joined Zarqa citizens in celebrating King Hussein's birthday. He received congratulations from representatives of the various

associations and youth leaderships on the occasion.

Addressing youth leaderships, Prince Hassan urged them to take part in the preparation of studies on unemployment and other social problems.

Prince Hassan escorted the youth leaders to Prince Abdullah Battalion, where they took part in the battalion's celebrations.

The Crown Prince also took part in a polo match held at the battalion's field to mark the occasion.

Arafat, in birthday wishes to King, restates confederation concept

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said the Palestinians still want to join Jordan in a confederation state after the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, the Palestinian news agency WAFA reported Sunday.

The agency said Mr. Arafat expressed the desire in a cable sent to King Hussein on his birthday Sunday.

"Our goal ... is to reach a confederation with Jordan according to the free choice of our two brotherly peoples," Mr. Arafat said in the cable.

He was quoted as saying that such a confederation could only be possible after the Palestinians "regain their national rights and set up their independent national state."

The PLO chairman has repeatedly said Palestinians' ultimate goal is a confederation with Jordan.

King Hussein has been cautious about the PLO suggestion and in the past he said that such a confederation is only possible when the Palestinians can freely choose it after they gain sovereignty in the lands where they live. Jordanians also have to decide on the issue, he has said.

However, this is the first time Mr. Arafat has made the remark since the PLO signed its self-rule accord with Israel in Washington on Sept. 13.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said King Hussein Sunday sent a cable to Mr. Arafat expressing his good wishes on the fifth anniversary of declaration of Palestinian independence.

The King wished Mr. Arafat continued health and happiness and for the Palestinians people the fulfilment of their aspiration.

On Nov. 14, 1988, the Palestine National Council declared Palestinian independence.

8 centrist deputies-elect form Lower House coalition

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Three right-of-centre political parties which won eight seats in last week's parliamentary elections have joined hands to form a coalition in the Lower House, party officials said Sunday.

Mijhem Khreisha, secretary-general of the Jordan National Alliance (JNA), said the coalition aimed to broaden its base to have as many as 22 members in the 80-member House by early December.

Jordan's 12th Parliament, elected on Nov. 8, is expected to be called to session on Nov. 23.

The three parties in the coalition, the second known bloc in the House, are the Al Yakatha party led by Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, Al Watan headed by Akef Al Fayez and the JNA. Yakatha and Al Watan won two seats each and the JNA won four in the elections.

In addition, the Party for Progress and Justice (PPJ), which did not win any seat is also part of the coalition, Mr. Khreisha told the Jordao Times.

The four parties are mem-

bers of an alliance called Jordan National Front, formed shortly after the parties were licensed following the enactment of the Political Parties Law in September 1992.

The House coalition will be known as the "JNF Parliamentary Bloc."

Yakatha party deputies-elect are Mr. Rawabdeh, who won an Irbid seat, and Ibrahim Samara, who won a Ramtha and Beni Kenana seat.

Al Watan deputies-elect are founding member Mohammad Thuwaleh (Amman's Second District) and Fayyad Jarrar (Zarka).

Both deputy-elects are originally West Bank Jordanians whose electoral base is tribal Palestinian. Mr. Thuwaleh belongs to the Ta'amre tribe from the Bethlehem area and Mr. Jarrar was the rural tribal candidate of several Jenin clans who have settled in the Zarka area.

The Sixth District of Amman. Mijhem Khreisha said that the success of the JNA's candidates will encourage other deputies to join and as many as nine deputies-elect have already been approached to join the coalition in Parliament.

If the bloc is successful in enlisting 20 deputies, it is likely to be a reckonable force in Parliament and will have a good chance of getting one of its members elected as House speaker or of securing cabinet posts.

The parties that have been approached are Al Mustakbal, the Unionists and the United Arab Democratic Party known by its Arabic acronym Waed as well as Abdul Hadi Majali's Al Ahd.

None of those four has agreed to the terms of coalition thus far.

Over the next year the JNF hopes to merge into one party. In the meantime, the current party secretaries general will take three-month turns in heading the front. "Then all secretaries-general will resign and a party congress will be held where a united executive committee will be chosen," Mr. Khreisha said.

Legislature to meet on Nov. 23

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein is expected to name the 40 members of the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) this week and convene the 12th Parliament to session on Nov. 23, informed official sources said Sunday.

The sources said a government change or a reshuffle of the present government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali was also expected, but they could not say whether the cabinet change would precede the convening of Parliament.

In recent press comments, the King has said no decision has been made whether a new government will be appointed or some changes could be made in the present Majali cabinet, which took office in May.

However, indications so far are that the changes could be limited to a cabinet reshuffle to bring in new blood into the government to accelerate the government's economic planning.

The beginning of the four-month regular session of the legislature — the Senate and the 80-member Lower House elected on Nov. 8 — was brought forward from a Dec. 1 date expected earlier so that there will be enough time for the lawmakers to debate a vote of confidence in the government and the 1994 fiscal budget before Dec. 31, 1993, they said.

"It is logical that Parliament will not be asked to discuss the budget and then a vote of confidence in the government," said an expert on parliamentary affairs. "Of course, a parliament vote on the budget could also be considered as a vote of confidence on the government, but it is unlikely that such a combination will be made."

In his traditional Speech from the Throne opening Parliament in a joint session of the two houses of Parliament, the King is expected to outline government policies and reaffirm Jordan's commitment to the quest for a negotiated settlement with Israel as well as economic reforms stipulated under an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The setback in strength that the hardline Islamic Action Front (IAF), the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood, and leftist groups suffered in the Nov. 8 elections and the victory of pro-establishment figures, including tribal leaders, are widely seen as having freed the government hand in pursuing peace talks with Israel and ensuring parliamentary support for any accord reached with the Jewish state.

The Islamist deputies in the outgoing Parliament, supported by some of the leftists, were vociferous opponents of the peace process as well as the IMF-prescribed economic reforms. They had a collective strength of up to 35 votes — enough to dominate the House, given the absentee record of other deputies.

This time around, the IAF, which took over from the Brotherhood as the mainstream Islamist group in Parliament, has 16 seats, compared with the 22 the Brotherhood had in the 11th Parliament. In addition, it can hope for the support of two other Brotherhood candidates who ran and won outside the IAF ticket and up to five independent Islamists and five leftist deputies on an issue-by-issue basis.

That works out to less than 30 total votes; enough to make their voices heard and not enough to pass or block legislation.

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Qadhafi praises Clinton, but maintains defiance

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Muammar Qadhafi, in a magazine interview, called President Bill Clinton "a brightening star in the Western hemisphere." Nevertheless, the Libyan leader expressed defiance of Western pressure to turn over two Libyan agents wanted in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

While sometimes appearing to make a bid for better relations with Mr. Clinton's government, Colonel Qadhafi said in the interview in Middle East Insight that the two should be tried in Libya.

The interview was in the magazine's issue released Sunday.

Talking of U.S. hostility to Libya, particularly the 1986 air raid ordered by President Ronald Reagan in which the Libyans say Col. Qadhafi's adopted daughter was killed, the Libyan leader said: "Now Clinton is here, threatening with his fleet. I must say that you meet people that you like, but he is not aggressive, he tends to be a peace-loving person."

"He is like a brightening star in the Western hemisphere which is full of darkness as far as we are concerned," Col. Qadhafi said.

He added: "I hope Clinton will not make a mistake and order the bombing of Libya."

Col. Qadhafi expressed defiance of threatened sanctions if the two Libyans are not turned over to stand trial for the December 1988 bombing, which killed 270 people.

"Intimidation does not alarm us," he said in Tripoli, three days after the U.N. Security Council on Thursday tightened sanctions against Libya for refusing to hand over the Lockerbie suspects.

"The West wants the suspects to appear before a court of law which is unacceptable," Col. Qadhafi said. "We have courts of law in our own country. Whoever has any evidence

may come to Libya and present it, and whoever is found guilty will be punished."

Asked by George Nader, editor of the Washington magazine, what effect the sanctions would have on Libya, Col. Qadhafi said the measures were not related to Lockerbie. He said they "are part of the imperialist policy against the developing countries around the world, in particular the Arab countries."

"We are not prepared to offer concession like those agreed to by the Iraqis," Col. Qadhafi said. "We have no confidence in the West. Once you make concessions, they demand more."

The latest Security Council resolution, effective Dec. 1 unless Libya turns over the suspects, would freeze Libyan assets abroad and ban the sale of some oil equipment. It expands an air and arms embargo in effect since April 1992.

Col. Qadhafi repeated Libya's offer to negotiate with the United States or the U.N. Security Council.

Libya denied Saturday it had decided to close its land borders with Egypt and Tunisia for three days to protest the new U.N. sanctions, but said it was staged at border posts with those countries.

A foreign ministry official said reports of the border closures were "without foundation."

Earlier, Egyptian officials at the Salmu border post told AFP Libya had decided to shut off its borders with Egypt and Tunisia starting from midnight (2200 GMT) Saturday and had been informed of it by the Libyan authorities.

Meanwhile, travellers from Libya arriving in Salmu said thousands of Libyans had started gathering on the country's borders, notably at Misurata, to demonstrate against the sanctions.

The demonstrators chanted slogans denouncing "U.S. imperialism" and "Western colonialism."

Algiers Radio also said Libya has closing its borders with Egypt and Tunisia for three days.

"Libya has decided to close its land frontiers with Egypt and Tunisia for three days... from midnight," the radio said. Libya also shares land borders with Algeria, Sudan, Chad and Niger but these are in the desert. Access to the main cities of Tripoli and Benghazi is through Tunisia to the west and Egypt to the east.

Libya's JANA news agency said demonstrators in Sirte, 400 kilometres east of the capital, protested on Saturday against the new sanctions.

They chanted angry slogans condemning the "policy of threats and ultimatums by the West," JANA said. It gave no other details.

OIC condemns sanctions

The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), the Muslim World's political mahalla, Sunday denounced the tightening of U.N. sanctions against Libya.

OIC Secretary-General Hamad Al Ghabid, in a statement, said they were "unjustified, particularly as the government of Libya has extended full cooperation to resolve the issue by peaceful means."

The statement said new sanctions would "cause immense suffering to the innocent Libyan people."

Mr. Ghabid's statement said the OIC had asked the U.N. Security Council to take account of Libyan compromise proposals, adding that the OIC was committed to a peaceful solution of the Lockerbie dispute through negotiation.

It stressed that the OIC's 51 member nations, which include Libya, are committed to combating the "pernicious phenomenon of international terrorism and have strongly condemned the loss of life resulting from the Lockerbie disaster."



RELATIVE PEACE: Somali children play on a U.N. armoured personnel carrier Sunday near the Bakara Market. The APC was destroyed Oct. 3 during a firefight between forces loyal to

Time for Arab Israeli minister — Darawsheh

CAIRO (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin must appoint an Arab minister to the Jewish state's government, an Arab-Israeli leader said Saturday.

"It is time for an Arab minister. If he refuses, that is his responsibility," Abdul Wahab Al Darawsheh told Reuters.

Mr. Darawsheh, whose Arab Democratic Party (ADP) holds two seats in the Israeli parliament, said the party would withdraw its support for the government if Mr. Rabin failed to do so by the end of the month.

"He refuses just because of racism," he added.

Mr. Rabin's coalition holds a 61-59 majority in the Knesset.

Mr. Darawsheh's threat shows the growing confidence of Israel's 800,000 Arab citizens who, after decades on the sidelines, are forging a role in politics as Israel and other Arabs strive to make peace.

Mr. Darawsheh, 50, has emerged as a significant figure

while his main rivals for leadership of the Arab community, 18 per cent of Israel's population, are failing.

The ADP, now the only serious all-Arab party after the Progressive List for Peace failed to win any Knesset seats last year, consolidated its hold in local politics in elections last week and now controls over 20 municipal councils in Israel.

Four Arab Israelis sit in parliament for Jewish parties and two more for the joint Arab-Jewish Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, the remnants of Israel's Communist Party.

Mr. Rabin, battling to win public approval for his September peace deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), has also been negotiating for support from the religious Jewish party Shas and is known to prefer Jewish rather than Arab support.

Mr. Darawsheh, a former civil servant from the Nazareth area, broke from the Labour



Abdul Wahab Al Darawsheh

Party in 1988 to form the ADP.

"There is no tension in relations between Israeli Arabs and Jews but no affection either," he said. "There has been some progress but we still have a long way to go."

"In general, younger Israelis are more, not less anti-Arab. That's why we need peace quickly to change attitudes before it's too late."

Dutchmen wrote final diary before Sahara death

ALGIERS (R) — Two Dutchmen who vanished in the Sahara desert have been found dead beside their burnt-out vehicle with a diary recording their last words as they perished of thirst, Algeria's official APS news agency said.

APS did not name the men but said they were two Dutch tourists aged 24 who went missing on July 25.

They were likely to be Peter Teggeleer and Mark Gilsing, two Dutchmen of that age whom the Dutch embassy has been seeking since they disappeared on that date in the desert in southern Algeria.

The gendarmes, quoted by APS, said the two decomposed bodies had been found 180 kilometres southeast of Tamanrasset on Thursday.

"Gendarmes found a notebook-diary there maintained by the two tourists which gave details of their adventure and the start of their death," the agency said.

It said the two were found 40 kilometres off the main track leading towards the frontier post of In-Guezzam on the border with Niger.

"The bodies of these two Dutchmen were half-burned near their Peugeot 505 vehicle," it added.

"Initial inquiries showed the wanderers from the track heading to In-Guezzam and broke down in an isolated part of the desert."

Algerian suspect protests house arrest in France

TOULOUSE, France (AFP) — The head of an Algerian group close to Algeria's banned fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) pledged late Saturday to appeal against an interior ministry order placing him under house arrest.

Djaffar Al Houari, 37, president of the Algerian Brotherhood in France (FAF), told AFP the claim that he gave backing to "terrorist" activities, which he said was behind his detention earlier Saturday, was unjustified and unacceptable.

Speaking by telephone from his place of detention near Foix in southwestern France, Mr. Houari said he had instructed his lawyer Jacques Verges to appeal against the ministry's ruling.

Mr. Houari, whose Paris home was searched by authorities at the time of his arrest, admitted he had received by fax from England "a general information sheet, notably containing an account of military operations in Algeria."

But he stressed he did not know the authors of the sheet. A summary of fax messages received by him, including the English fax number, was found during the search of his premises, Mr. Houari said.

But he said his fax and telephone number were in the public domain and "anyone can get hold of it."

Mr. Houari was among 88 suspected Algerian fundamentalists detained in a nationwide police crackdown Tuesday in apparent reprisal for Muslim fundamentalist

threats against French nationals in Algeria.

But he told AFP: "The FIS has never said it was necessary to attack foreigners in Algeria, in France or elsewhere."

"Other people launched that appeal. The FIS is... the legitimate representative of the Algerian people. It is not in its interests to attack foreigners."

The Algerian Brotherhood was registered with French police in January 1991. But last June authorities banned two of its publications because of their "violently anti-Western and anti-French" language.

Mr. Houari, who has been in France for five years and has studied mathematics, was initially detained in the Paris suburb of Antony.

His arrest came hours after three leading suspected fundamentalists, Monssa Kraouche, 34, Abdel Haq Boujaadar, 32, and Larbi Beddiaf, were charged with criminal association in connection with "terrorist" activities by investigating Judge Roger Le Loire.

Mr. Kraouche, who was also detained in a Paris suburb and remains in custody, is a spokesman for the FAF. He is accused of having been "a special contact for Rabah Kebir," head of the overseas branch of FIS and a refugee in Germany.

Investigators said they found a copy of a letter at Mr. Kraouche's home in which the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of three French consular officials in Algeria on Oct. 24.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran denies producing missiles with Syria

DUBAI (R) — Iran Saturday denied a London newspaper report that it was working jointly with Syria to produce cruise missiles. "Despite enjoying good political relations, Iran and Syria have never had any joint plan to produce sophisticated cruise missiles," the official Iranian IRNA news agency said, quoting a Defence Ministry source. The Times newspaper said Friday the two countries aimed to build a missile capable of carrying a nuclear or chemical warhead. The reports surfaced from an international aerospace exhibition in Dubai, it said. IRNA's source also said allegations that Iran had agreed to finance production of Scud missiles by North Korea were baseless. "Such unfounded claims are raised by Western media in line with the political gains of their respective governments," it said. Iran, which has uneasy relations with neighbouring Iraq as well as Israel and the United States, has strong political ties with Syria.

New Chad government named

NDJAMENA (AFP) — Chad's new prime minister, Delwa Kassire Koumakoye, announced the make-up of his new government Saturday, government radio reported. Mr. Kassire Koumakoye, who took office Wednesday after his election by the transitional parliament, named 10 members of the administration of former Premier Fidel Moungar to his new government. Formerly justice minister, Mr. Kassire Koumakoye was elected last Saturday by the parliament, which last month passed a vote of censure against the previous government led since April by Mr. Moungar. The new government list comprises 16 posts, in line with recommendations of a sovereign national conference held between January and April to determine the Central African country's future. Four of the 10 retained ministers change their post. Former Defence Minister Loum Hinasou Laina becomes justice minister, Deputy Secretary of the Government Mamadou Regui becomes a minister attached to the president's office, Trade Minister Abdul Ramane Izzo takes on responsibility for the economy and tourism, and Communications Minister Mahamat Saleh Alabo moves to the public health portfolio. Mr. Kassire Koumakoye was a contender for the top government post in April but lost out to Mr. Moungar before becoming justice minister in his government. The new premier will be charged with running the country and overseeing the build-up to elections in 1994.

Israel to launch massive Dead Sea scrolls campaign

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel is launching an extensive search for Dead Sea scrolls in the caves of the desert before the area is handed to the Palestinians in a possible peace agreement, officials confirmed Saturday. Orna Hess, spokeswoman for the Israel antiquities authority, said archaeologists were to begin their survey Sunday, but she would not provide further details. An archaeologist, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said dozens of colleagues would participate, and that some of them had taken rock-climbing classes in preparation. Israel Radio said there would be 19 teams, and some practised being lowered from helicopters into caves. Winter rains can set off flash floods in the desert and turn it into treacherous territory. The scrolls were found in caves near the Dead Sea over a 10-year period starting in 1947. The ancient documents include poetry and legal texts as well as books of the Bible. Scholars believe the scrolls can shed light on ancient Jewish sects as well as groups that may have influenced early Christian thought. Sunday's campaign was to start in the area of Qumran, the site of some of the original finds, as well as nearby caves.

Iraq rebuilds intelligence headquarters

NICOSIA (AP) — Saddam Hussein on Saturday praised the workers who rebuilt Baghdad's intelligence headquarters, destroyed by U.S. missiles 4½ months ago, the Iraqi News Agency reported. "God is great, long live the mujahideen," or holy strugglers, the Iraqi president was quoted as saying by the agency in a dispatch monitored in Cyprus. Two U.S. warships fired 23 Tomahawk missiles at Baghdad on June 27, killing at least eight people, in retaliation for an alleged plot by Iraq's intelligence services to assassinate former President George Bush in Kuwait. The primary target was the headquarters of the intelligence service. Iraq claimed four missiles were shot down. The Pentagon said three went astray, hitting civilian buildings.

Suspect held for murder of women in Cyprus

NICOSIA (AP) — A second Greek Cypriot confessed to police Saturday he was involved in the separate murders of a Swedish and a Russian woman who disappeared in the summer. Police testified in court that Michalis Iacovides, 35, confessed that he and Antonis Kitas, 27, a hoodlum known as "Al Capone" who is already in police custody, kidnapped the two women on different dates in June in the south coast tourist resort of Ayia Napa. The head of the Nicosia criminal investigation department, Nathanael Papageorgiou, told the court Iacovides also confessed that he and Kitas raped the women before killing them and disposing of the bodies. After hearing Papageorgiou, Judge Andonis Liatris ordered Iacovides, who stood impassively in the dock, to be detained for eight days pending the completion of police investigations. The body of the Russian woman, Roxana Lista, 28, who worked in a Nicosia cabaret, was found dumped in a well Oct. 29. Police were led to the spot by Kitas, who started providing information on the two missing women in a plea bargaining effort following his arrest last month on an unrelated attempted murder charge. Kitas also told the police he and another person he did not name buried the Swedish woman, Christine Constantines, 27, in the Nicosia municipal garbage dump. Police bulldozers looking for Mrs. Constantines' body have shifted tonnes of garbage in the past two weeks. Kitas claimed he was not involved in the actual killings, but was asked to bury the bodies by other persons who have not yet been named by the police, implying the existence of an organised crime syndicate. The case has drawn a lot of media attention on this holiday island where violent crime is rare.

U.S. troops back on streets of Mogadishu soon—spokesman

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — U.S. troops are to return to the streets of the Somali capital "within the next week or two" after being confined to their bases for more than a month following clashes which killed 18 Americans, a U.S. military spokesman said here Sunday.

The spokesman, Colonel Steve Rausch, declined to say what type of intervention the troops would undertake, commenting that he preferred not to reveal plans being worked out.

But their task essentially would be to make sure roads in the capital were clear so that humanitarian aid could get through.

In principle, U.S. forces would not participate in search operations for arms, Col. Rausch said.

Their return would be preceded by a campaign to inform the population, and rival clans here would receive adequate notification. Leaflets would be distributed and announcements made over loudspeakers. "We want our intentions completely understood," he said.

U.S. soldiers have been off the streets of Mogadishu since fierce clashes on Oct. 3 with General Mohammad Farah Aided's militia left 18 Americans dead.

A ceasefire is in force between the warlord and U.S. forces, who have not been

hunting him since Oct. 3, although a price of \$25,000, set by the United Nations, is still on his head.

When the Americans announced early this month that U.S. patrols would resume shortly, Gen. Aided denounced it as a "provocation." He claimed the city was "calm" and "no roads cut."

"Under these circumstances, we see no reason for the deployment of troops in Mogadishu," he added.

Col. Rausch said some of the forces would start to pull out some time before the end of December.

"Within a month's time plans will have to be complete," he said, adding, "we intend to maintain our capability right to the end."

The final pullout is to be completed by March 31, under plans already announced by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

The Americans have 7,450 troops on the ground and 8,600 on ships off Mogadishu.

The Mogadishu security committee would meet again on Monday, Col. Rausch added.

The panel groups representatives of the U.S. armed forces, the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM), Gen. Aided's Somali National Alliance (SNA), and the United Somali Congress (USC) of his rival Ali Mahdi Mohammad, who dominates north of

the capital.

However, the SNA said it would not attend the Monday meeting.

The SNA has refused to negotiate with UNOSOM as long as it maintains its arrest warrant against Gen. Aided and has not freed 43 Somalis held by U.N. forces.

Col. Rausch said: "We are hopeful that they (will) change their mind... March 31 is approaching and there is still a lot of work to do."

Meanwhile in Bonn, German newspapers said Sunday that Defence Minister Volker Ruche and Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel were openly at loggerheads over the details of German troops' withdrawal from Belet Uen in northern Somalia.

Mr. Ruche complained that German forces serving under the United Nations in Somalia would be unable to carry out their mission once the Americans had left.

The newspapers quoted Mr. Ruche as saying the 1,700 German peacekeepers in Belet Uen would be unable to get supplies, which are sent to them by the Americans.

The Germans were already baying to ration fuel, according to reports in Bild am Sonntag and Welt am Sonntag newspapers.

Mr. Kinkel, however, wanted the Germans to stay longer in Somalia.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Les Aventuriers de L'Espèce
18:00	Omniscience
18:30	Maguy
19:00	News in French
19:15	The weekly sport magazine
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:30	News in Arabic
21:10	Delta
21:18	The House of Eliott
22:00	News in English
22:20	The Cucumber
PRAYER TIMES	
04:39	Fajr
05:59	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:28	Asr
14:16	Maghreb
16:41	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth, Tel. 810740	
Annunciation of God Church, Tel. 637855	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Saie Church Tel. 661757	

Terrace Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851	
628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775651	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 654195	
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
A depression accompanied by humid air mass will affect the Kingdom. Large masses of clouds will appear at different altitudes, rain will fall in most parts of the Kingdom, and winds will be southeasterly to westerly active. In Amman, it will be dusty and partly cloudy with a chance of scattered showers. Winds will be southerly active and seas rough.	
Min./Max. temp.	Amman 5 / 14

Agaba 14 / 24	
Deserts 4 / 17	
Jordan Valley 12 / 22	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 18 per cent, Agaba 28 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Farouk Nour	786400
Dr. Bahjat Badr	849362
Dr. Ahmad Khasneer	747684
Dr. Jihad Zyadeh	381148
First pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	778236
Al Asma pharmacy	670255
Nairookh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shawabeh pharmacy	637640
Nairookh pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847632
IRBID:	
Dr. Ahmad Qam	773111
Alquds pharmacy	815615

ZARQA:	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 61111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630221
Hotel Complaints	605800
Police Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (Directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	680100
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Radio Jordan	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	

Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport	08-53300
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn	642816
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Mallat, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeitan	6641714
Shmeitan Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Musader Hospital	6672779
The Islamic, Abdali	66412737
Al-Ahli, Abdali	6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/26
Army, Mallat	89161/15
Queen Alia Hospital	68224090
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)980660
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al-Hikma Modern Hospital	(09)990990
IRBID:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Gross Catholic Hospital	(02)27275
Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital	(02)247100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

King receives greetings

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received congratulatory cables on his 58th birthday from Arab and foreign heads of state and senior officials.

The cables came from the leaders of Morocco, Oman, Iraq, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, Spain, Bhutan and N. Korea.

The King also received cables from the Bahraini Crown Prince, the Omani deputy prime minister for security and defence affairs, the acting speaker of the Palestine National Council, and the commander of the Palestine Liberation Army in Jordan.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and senior government officials, heads of professional associations, tribal chiefs and representatives of Palestinian refugees also cabled the King, congratulating him on the occasion.

Meanwhile, as part of the

occasion, Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas inaugurated a health centre at Queen Alia International Airport.

Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority Ahmad Jweiber also inaugurated the airport's business centre at Terminal Two. It will provide international and local communication, fax, printing, and photocopying facilities.

Meteorologist expects warmer temperatures, rain

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The cold dry weather which affected the country Saturday and Sunday is expected to end today (Monday) with the advent of a low depression centered west of Cyprus, according to the Department of Meteorology Sunday evening.

Department spokesman Jamal Al Mousa told the Jordan Times that the depression, accompanied by a humid air mass, will affect Jordan along with the other countries east of the Mediterranean region, bringing rain gradually over the entire Kingdom starting in the north.

Brisk southwesterly winds will accompany the depression and the rains, added Mr. Mousa.

He said in the gulf of Aqaba it will be dusty and partly cloudy, with a chance of scattered showers.

The dry cold air mass which affected Jordan in the past two days, he said, came from the eastern European continent.

Asked about temperatures, Mr. Mousa said Monday the temperature will rise to 13°C but will drop to 6°C at night.

He noted that the temperature in Amman Saturday evening was around 1°C, while in Rweishid it was -2.5°C and at Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA) it registered -5°C.

According to Mr. Mousa, the weather will become warmer Tuesday and Wednesday.

New 10% income tax is levied on freight charges on exports

Transshipments complicate deliveries

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Income Tax Department has demanded that shipping agents in the Kingdom pay a 10 per cent income tax on the freight cost of Jordanian exports. Tawfiq Kwar, the chairman of the Shipping Agents Association (SAA) told a group of businessmen Saturday evening.

Mr. Kwar said he had not yet informed the members of the association about the tax department notice which came unexpectedly only a few days ago. He added that a meeting for the members was now needed to discuss how to deal with the new charges.

"It has to be passed on to the shipowner who in turn would add it to the freight cost paid by the exporter," Mr. Kwar pointed out.

According to internationally-accepted norms, income is taxed wherever it is realised. As such, shipping agents in Jordan are outside the tax net as far as imports into the Kingdom are concerned.

Foreign parties involved on the export side are normally covered by regulations prevailing in their countries where about a 12 per cent "freight tax" is usually levied.

Mr. Kwar explained that

if freight cost was collected here on behalf of a company abroad, the amount would not be taxed and would be transferred to the foreign party in full.

Shipping problems

Beside the remark on the tax element, Mr. Kwar's address focused on shipping problems from the port of Aqaba.

He said that as a result of the continued Aqaba Gulf blockade by the U.S.-led allied forces and the inspection measures still in force, the importance and role of the port of Aqaba has been marginalised.

"The regular shipping lines have shifted to use the ports of Jeddah and Port Said as transshipment ports where goods and containers destined to Aqaba were being unloaded," he said. "The cargo is then transported on feeder vessels, which are easier to inspect and less costly compared to large ships, to the Jordanian port."

Mr. Kwar noted that goods unloaded in Jeddah undergo an inspection from the Saudi authorities before being reloaded for shipping to Aqaba. The Saudi Arabian inspection comes after a first inspection at the Straits of Tiran.

Then SAA chairman told the businessmen that the

transshipment procedures were causing a prolonged period in transit, especially to European ports, and he advised exporters to check the schedule of feeder vessels and transshipment ships before signing any contract or specifying a delivery date.

Mr. Kwar emphasised that the inspection measures were also causing disruptions to shipping to east and north African countries and preventing lower freight costs to Jordanian exporters despite cheaper charges granted to other ports in the region.

Rimoo Halteh, an industrialist engaged in yeast production, told the audience that a consignment of yeast export to Sudan was totally damaged a few weeks ago because of transshipment delays.

"It took weeks for the consignment to move from Aqaba to Jeddah and then to the port of destination in Sudan. The long journey and the summer heat rendered the yeast worthless," Mr. Halteh said.

Mr. Kwar said before the blockade there were direct connections between Aqaba and the other ports in the area, but now there are no regular shipping lines serving the various ports.

Expanding Aqaba's role
Dureid Mahasneh.

director-general of the Ports Corporation, made a brief address following Mr. Kwar's lecture and stressed Jordan's keenness to expand Aqaba's role in the region.

He said in the coming few weeks Jordan would reduce transshipment charges by 50 per cent to attract more business through Aqaba Port.

Dr. Mahasneh, refusing to be drawn into political talk, said that there would be tough competition in the future, but the port which would gain prominence in the region would be the one offering the highest quality of service and the lowest charges.

Noting that Aqaba had a very good infrastructure, Dr. Mahasneh said the government had been speeding millions of dinars each year to improve various facilities at the port.

He pointed out that the private sector would be given large investment opportunities in Aqaba next year because the government does not want to keep full control over port activities in the future.

Dr. Mahasneh said Gaza Port was a long-term project which he did not see as a competitor to Aqaba.

"Gaza and Aqaba ports will complement each other," he said.

UNICEF catalogue sales help fund agency's work

By Kathrine Rath
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — With projects in 128 developing countries the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is the world's largest organisation working for the protection, development and well-being of children. Since its establishment in 1946, UNICEF has contributed to making life healthier and richer for children and their mothers in poor countries around the world.

UNICEF provides assistance in the areas of health care services, safe water supply and sanitation, nutrition, education and training. The organisation encourages community-based programmes and cooperates closely with national governments as well as the residents of the concerned communities in order to give assistance which is fitted to the local needs.

While having been in Jordan since 1969, UNICEF has expanded its activities greatly in the last few years. About eight years ago, the organisation concentrated on implementing programmes for immunisation and diarrhoeal diseases.

Today its activities in the Kingdom also include programmes for acute respiratory infections, safe motherhood and nutrition.

In 1992, a programme for elementary health education as well as an early childhood development programme were started.

In cooperation with Jordanians, UNICEF is working towards attaining the national goals of reducing the infant mortality rate from 37 to 18 deaths per 1,000 live births, and the under-five mortality rate from 52 to 20; reducing maternal mortality from 40 to 20 per 100,000 live births; providing 2.1 Jordanians with the basic knowledge and skills needed for healthy living, within 1997.

The operation of the UN-



The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) 1993 card and gifts catalogue

ICEF programmes is entirely dependent on voluntary contributions from governments, non-governmental organisations, corporations and individuals.

The greeting card operation, which is launched every year in the months before Christmas, is the largest fund raiser after the donations from national governments and corporations.

The income from last year's card sales was JD 57,000 in Jordan alone and \$82.5 million worldwide.

The latest UNICEF card and gifts collection catalogue is now out. It displays a colourful variety of greeting cards with motifs to fit most seasons and occasions, but with an emphasis on Christmas and winter scenes.

Stationary, T-shirts, mugs and toys are also available from the catalogue, offered as an assorted selection of gift items.

Although the card sale reaches a peak around Christmas, the UNICEF articles listed can be bought all the year around.

Those who wish to show their appreciation for UNICEF's efforts and support the organisation in its future work are encouraged to buy UNICEF cards and gifts.

UNICEF will have sale stands around the Kingdom, at large corporations and at bazaars taking place in November and December.

The UNICEF articles are also available from major supermarkets, hotels and bookstores in Amman.

JSCEP to enlighten students

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution (JSCEP) Monday will open a training seminar for university community college and school students on means of protecting the environment.

A statement said that the seminar, which will be opened by society President Ahmad Obaidat, will tackle numerous topics related to the environment, major pollutants and their effects on human life. Air, water and soil pollution by solid and liquid wastes, in addition to the dangers of garbage dump sites, will be discussed at the seminar to be held at the society premises in Amman.

The discussions, according to the statement, will cover the pollution of rivers, reservoirs behind dams, drinking water and water basins from factory waste, fumes and other pollutants.

It said that the adverse effects of desertification, soil erosion and the depletion of the ozone layer will be discussed along with the role of citizens in putting an end to such dangers.

Environmental specialists representing the society and universities will deliver lectures at the seminar, designed to further spread awareness among the public of environmental pollution, said the statement.

It said that the participants will be shown documentary films on ways of protecting the environment or dealing with pollution.

The seminar will be organised in cooperation with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation of Germany.

Embroidery works of 45 Palestinian villages, 5,000 women are on display

AMMAN (Petra) — A six-day exhibition of Palestinian embroideries is on display at the Royal Cultural Centre featuring nearly 500,000 worth of national costumes and other popular and traditional embroideries including bags, head sheets, cushions and shawls from the occupied Arab territories.

Amman Mayor Mamdouh Al Abbadi Saturday opened the exhibition, which was organised by the Inaash Al Ura Charitable Society of Bireh near Ramallah.

The exhibition displays the works of women in 45 Palestinian villages in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, according to Saeda Abu, head of a committee acting as a liaison for the society in Amman.

Mrs. Abdo said that 5,000 women, including wives of martyrs, mothers of orphans and wives of detained Palestinians prepared the displayed items.

She said that 65 per cent of the income for the 5,000 families come from the proceeds of activities of the Bireh Char-

itable Society, adding that the society runs several factories and dressmaking shops for men, women and children's wear.

The society also trains young men and women in nursing, secretarial and office works and other trades to help them earn a living.

Mrs. Abdo said the proceeds of this exhibition will also benefit the needy families in the occupied Palestinian lands.

The exhibition will continue until Friday.

Transport union to hold elections next month

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Union of Workers in Land Transport and Mechanics announced Sunday that elections of board members of the branch unions in various governorates

will be held next month. The first election to be held on Dec. 8 will be that of the board members of the union for the Amman area.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Fahmi Al Qaysi at the Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ibrahim Al Nashashibi at Baladna Art Gallery (Gardens Street).
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Rakan Dabdoub at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 836932).
- ★ Art exhibition by a number of artists at the Students Affairs Deanship at the University of Jordan.
- ★ The Palestinian embroidery exhibit at the Royal Cultural Centre (daily 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.).
- ★ Exhibition of recent paintings by artist Amman Khammash at Darat Al Fann of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lweibidh. Also showing the permanent exhibition (Saturday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.).
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Mohammad Al Jalous at the French

Cultural Centre.

LECTURES

- ★ Lecture entitled "The Monetary and Financial Aspects in Light of the Peace March" by Central Bank of Jordan Governor Dr. Mohammad Sa'id Al Nabulsi at Philadelphia Hotel at 6:00 p.m.

FILMS

- ★ Film in French entitled "Omibus" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Film in French entitled "Toto Le Hero" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

DRAMAS

- ★ Drama in Arabic entitled "Upside Down" at Samir Al Rifa'i auditorium at the University of Jordan at 3:00 p.m.

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

- ★ Musical performance at the University of Jordan campus between 12:00-14:00.

AIR FRANCE

ASK THE WORLD OF US

AIR FRANCE ANNOUNCES THE RESUMPTION OF ITS 3 WEEKLY FLIGHTS TO AMMAN

Following the end of the social dispute that gravely disrupted its flights, Air France wishes to extend its apologies to all its clients and at the same time confirm that all the company's operations are now completely back to normal.

Air France, like other airlines, has to reduce its costs and remain competitive. This is the purpose of the plan adopted by the company in its unceasing endeavors to seek a financial solidity, insure its future, and better serve its clients.

All of Air France's staff is once again joined to extend to our clients the quality of service the company is well renowned for.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975
مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

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Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

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Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the

Jordan Times advertising department.

A legislature in harmony

WITH THE election of the members of the Lower House now behind us, the focus of attention now shifts to the Upper House (Senate) whose term ends on November 22. There is cause to believe that the composition of the Senate will undergo substantial changes to reflect the new era which is obviously dominated by the making of peace in the Middle East and the democratisation process. Over and above the qualification criteria spelled out in Article 64 of the Constitution, there are other bases that most likely will influence composition of the new Upper House.

On the basis of the proposition that peace in the region and pluralistic democracy are the central issues that will dominate Jordan's politics in the next four years, the immediate policy decision that needs to be made is whether the Kingdom needs to streamline the Senate with Lower House. Given the fact that the composition of the chamber of deputies appears to be favourable to the pursuit of peace talks with Israel, the question that remains to be addressed is whether the Senate should be likewise constituted in order to be on the same wavelength with the Lower House on matters that will figure highly on the national agenda.

There are obviously pros and cons on the policy that calls for having the two Chambers of Parliament singing basically the same tune. The previous Lower House had at least in two occasions differed with the Upper House on key issues of legislation, something that some maintain has enriched the democratic process. Others have argued otherwise on the basis that the legislative decision-making process was often impeded or frustrated as a result of this confrontation.

Many established democracies have experienced a divided body of legislature and have deduced that the functions of the two Houses should preferably be supplementary rather than complementary. It is the nature of upper houses of parliament in most countries to make representation of the people and their thoughts and sentiments more equitable by rectifying the shortcomings of the criteria of one-person, one-vote not only in the sense that we have adopted in Jordan but also in the sense that equal number of voters would have equal representation. That is the basis for the principle of allocating the same number of Senate seats to various regions of a country irrespective of population size.

In Jordan, the objectives of the Senate go beyond this immediate global criteria but runs in the same direction. As the Lower House is constituted of several currents but dominated by moderation and progressive tendencies, it would seem proper to select a senate made up also of different shades of opinion but dominated by the same forces that control the Lower House. The country needs to institutionalise democracy and continue the campaign for modernisation over and above a just and legitimate resolution of the conflict with Israel. This much cannot be achieved if the Senate and the Lower House are divided on most of the pressing national issues.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT WOULD not be fair to demand from the new deputies in Parliament to do more than they can in their handling the country's external and domestic affairs, said Khaled Saket, a columnist in Al Ra'i Sunday. It is not possible for the deputies, during their four-year mandate, to liberate Andalusia from Spanish rule, Iskandaroun from Turkish rule or the islands in the Gulf from Iranian occupation and finally liberate the Palestinian lands from Israeli colonialist rule, said the writer. It is neither possible at the moment to demand that the deputies arrange for an Arab summit to be held in order to unify Arab ranks and lift the sanctions unjustly imposed on Iraq, he added. But what is possible and should be done by the deputies, he said, is to put the Jordanian House in order and to chart reasonable plans for ridding Jordan of problems like foreign indebtedness and unemployment. The coming Parliament is expected to work out plans in cooperation with the executive branch of government to help the Jordanian industries and agriculture sector to produce enough products to meet the Jordanian people's needs, he added. He said the new Parliament is required to deal with the education system which is no more catering to the needs of the Jordanian labour market. He added that the new Parliament ought to introduce amendments to the present parliamentary system to make it more palatable to the public and to encourage more people to vote in the coming elections.

ARAFAT HIAZI, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily, criticised Faisal Hussein, head of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations with Israel, for apologising to Israel for the killing, by Fatah Movement, of an Israeli settler near Ramallah, but failing to convey the Palestinian message to the Israeli leadership. The writer said that Yitzhak Rabin had demanded that the PLO adhere to its deal with Israel, signed on Sept. 13, but failed to contain the Jewish settlers who have been carrying out attacks on the Arab people. The Israelis and their leadership ought to apologise for the killing of the Arab people and the destruction of Arab homes and other property carried after the signing of the Washington deal, demanded the writer.

Success of the democratic process depends on broad participation, not exclusion of opposition

By Lamis K. Andoni

The setback suffered by the organised Islamists and not-so-organised left in last week's general elections is expected to make them shift their focus in the medium term back to grassroots mobilisation to compensate for loss of their weight in the Parliament.

Consequently, the new Parliament will cease to be a major forum for the opposition, prompting the emergence of new forms and venues for "the protest votes", which has failed to carry its candidates to the House.

Strategies in the immediate future will essentially take the form of a reorganisation of parties' structures and platforms and an attempt to create a broader mass movement to build up pressure on Parliament and the executive branch.

Activists from all shades of the political spectrum concede that if the eight leftist and pan-Arabist groups do not seriously consider unification of parties with similar platforms, the next four years will witness the end of these parties — in their current structure at least — as an effective force.

A potential disintegration of the current leftist parties, however, is expected to give birth to new groups that will emanate from within these parties, but with a bigger role for the younger generation.

For if anything, the setback of the left and the Islamists in the Parliament is not only a consequence of the one-person, one-vote system, it is

also a result of the failure of parties to assert their role as a medium between the state and the masses.

Thus, political parties, particularly the secular forces, would have to reconsider their tactics and their strategies and, most significantly, redefine their role.

After all, while the role of the political opposition in the clandestine years was clearer, and in a way simpler since they had mainly to articulate protest, the era of legalisation of political parties demanded detailed and well-defined programmes that could make them effective in the decision-making process.

For example, the protest expressed by "opposition candidates" against the economic policies and "repressive" laws were very attractive to their constituencies four years ago — as they represented a will for change and aspirations for broader participation. But mere opposition has now become insufficient without coming out with specific demands that could improve living conditions and affect government decisions.

Furthermore, in the last four years, even though the parties had succeeded in asserting a certain presence in Jordan's political system — for example they were included in the Royal Commission that drafted the National Charter which laid down the rules for pluralism — they had obviously ignored sufficient grassroots mobilisation. Objective reasons, including the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Iraqi defeat and the start of the Middle East

peace process — on terms widely viewed as dictated by the U.S. — had definitely shaken the role of the left in the Arab World in general and should not be underestimated. But that does not deny the fact that the left and pan-Arabists have so far failed to adapt to the new changes — feeding more on their past popularity and status than on current achievements and/or platforms.

Furthermore, the failure of the opposition, leftist and rightist alike, to effect fundamental changes in the policies and decisions resulting from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) readjustment economic programme or the terms for the peace process, if not arrest the process altogether, has undermined people's faith in the role of the parties, and for that matter the Parliament, to affect the decision-making process.

For the opposition has practically confined its rejection of the IMF programme and the terms of the peace process — in the case of the pan-Arabists and Islamists the principle of talks with Israel — to expressions and acts of political posturing.

As a result, the opposition has failed to either build up popular pressure on the government to reconsider its policies or to put forward specific demands or policies that could at least minimise these policies' effects on people — as Jordan's renege on the IMF set path is deemed unrealistic.

There is no doubt that the transition from an era of clandestine activity to one of pub-

lic exposure is a tough experience and test to all groups. Suddenly, groups that were practically outside the system for decades found themselves competing from within the system.

But for activists, who were alienated for decades, a reentry into the system has been a complicated and difficult process, both psychologically and practically.

This alienation is equally difficult to comprehend by those who were not in the ranks of the opposition. Many of the activists in their thirties, for example, had spent years in jail and were subjected to travel and work bans — a consequence of the ban on organised political work and the imposition of the martial law.

To reconcile between finding a place in the system, without compromising their principles, and pursuing their role as political activists has been a tough challenge for members of the previously banned political opposition.

The fundamental shift in their position — as ideological opponents of the regime — to an opposition from within the system — that essentially adheres to the constitution but seeks to expand the rules of the game has also been a challenge that the opposition has not yet been able to deal with.

The shift has been confusing for both the activists and their constituencies — for if the opposition basically accepts the rules of the game and is not able to influence major government policies, the distinction between the opposition and the govern-

ment becomes obscure to the point that the party platform and ideology loses its meaning. In fact, this factor, at least the conclusion reached by a considerable size of the leftist constituency, has characterised the electorate attitudes throughout the election campaign.

The question in itself, underscores three facts:

— First, that it takes time for democratic and pluralistic traditions to mature after three decades of ban on political parties.

— Second, that the political parties, the opposition in particular, have not clearly redefined their new position in terms of their goals and vision.

— Third, the official attitude has not changed enough to accept the new role of the opposition — not as enemies of the fundamentals of the regime but rather as representatives of wider interest groups whose demands and aspirations should be taken into account to ensure an inclusive system.

Neither the regime nor the opposition can ignore the fact that the outcome of the elections did not necessarily indicate a dramatic decline in the "protest votes".

A purely statistical calculation is not very accurate in this case, especially that both the left and the Islamists had relied on tribal affiliations to muster enough votes.

Any reading of the available figures, however, clearly indicates that the protest vote is stronger and broader than the results have suggested — taking into account the votes that went to both Islamists

and leftists. But while the Islamist votes suffered minimal splits, the pan-Arabist and leftist votes were scattered, an indication of the fragmentation of the Jordanian left.

And even if one takes into account the argument that abstention of many voters reflected an "alienation of the protest votes", these abstentions are very telling of the opposition's failure as much as a potential apathy resulting from lack of belief in change through Parliament.

In the battle for democracy, articulation of protest through participation in civil society institutions is essential for the progress of the experiment and its consolidation. A setback for the opposition in Parliament is not necessarily negative if other forms of association — especially within parties themselves — are developed enough to provide venues for popular participation. But once the protest vote fails to manifest itself in the party structures or the Parliament, that means that the electoral process has succeeded in containing the opposition instead of diffusing the seeds of tension.

It is a challenge that both the regime — by supporting further institutionalisation of political freedoms and democracy — and the parties — by maintaining grassroots support — will face in the next years. For the triumph of the democratic process will largely depend on broadening participation and not the reinforcement of any exclusivist structures — through laws that undercut the opposition.

Palestinian doubts along the road to freedom

By Hisham Sharabi

WASHINGTON — Many Palestinians, myself included, were convinced after the Sept. 13 signing in Washington of a document outlining the principles of peace negotiations with Israel that despite its many shortcomings, it offered the Palestinians a historic opportunity not only to end the conflict but also to build the political structures that might lead eventually to an independent state.

On a recent trip to the West Bank and Gaza and Israel, I discovered that this optimism was not altogether warranted. In late September, I was invited by BBC television to participate with Amos Oz, the well-known Israeli novelist and peace activist, in filming a documentary investigating the reaction of Palestinians and Israelis to the peace plan. For 10 days we travelled across Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, starting from Jaffa — my hometown, which I had last seen in December 1947.

What struck me most was the amazing similarity, in some instances almost the mirror-image identity, between the reactions of Palestinians and Israelis to the peace plan. For example, almost everyone we talked to felt apprehensive about the plan, even those who supported it. Many of those who opposed

it used arguments similar to the ones put forth by those who supported it. They attacked the agreement for giving away too much, for being vague on too many issues, for not dealing directly with the central problems. Only the extremists on both sides, though, held fast to what might be called a clear-cut rejection.

It was clear that while supporters were in the majority, their position was neither firm nor truly monolithic. Almost all, including much of the opposition, agreed that "only what happened on the ground, what got implemented, would serve as a basis for them to take an unambiguous stand on the agreement."

Hence the centrality of what must be achieved in the interim phase of the agreement, especially between now and next July, when the elections for the Palestinian Council are to be held.

Three elements seem decisive to success in the coming period: rapid economic development, flexibility in Israel's negotiating stance and Palestinian competence in dealing with the new situation.

Economic support, mainly by the Europeans and Japan, now seems assured. Israel's attitude to the negotiations, however, is still not quite clear. The Israelis could complicate matters if, for example, they dragged their feet on going

beyond Gaza-Jericho, obstructing rapid extension of Palestinian authority over the remainder of the West Bank.

But it is the last component, Palestinian competence, that will be decisive for the achievement of an acceptable peace.

The ability to do what is required will be tested in four major areas: in establishing an efficient and financially responsible administrative structure; in performing professionally in the negotiations with Israel and on the mixed commissions; in building a non-partisan Palestinian police force capable of maintaining law and order; in conducting free and democratic elections next July.

Many Palestinians I talked to expressed serious misgivings about the ability of the PLO, with its history of corruption and ineptitude, to handle large administrative and financial problems. Some raised questions about how appointments to top positions will be made, others about the way the police force was being recruited (largely from elements outside the West Bank and Gaza).

The greatest concern, however, centred on the question of democracy and the role of women. Will the coming elections allow for political opposition, including opposition by the Islamic groups (by no means all "extremists" or unconditionally opposed to the

agreement)? Will women be encouraged to run?

To my mind the elections will probably be the most important factor of all. If free and democratic elections take place, the Palestinians will have made a major turn in their struggle for self-determination and freedom. They will have proved that they are not only a mature people capable of managing their own affairs but also a people fit to build their own democratic state.

But if elections are for some reason "postponed" or, probably worse, carried out in a manifestly unfree, manipulative fashion (as a significant segment of Palestinians fear, according to a recently published study by a group of political scientists at Birzeit University), then the outcome will be failure on all fronts.

Instead of reaching the maximum that the agreement made possible, the Palestinians would then find themselves internally polarised, no longer the centre of international concern, abandoned by most Arab countries, and alone as never before under Israeli occupation.

The writer is a history professor at Georgetown University and chairman of the Centre for Policy Analysis on Palestine. This article is reprinted from The Washington Post.



U.S., Russia see main threat from small powers

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuters

LONDON — After a 40-year nuclear stand-off, Moscow and Washington are both changing their strategic policies to confront not each other but the smaller powers they now see as the main threat in the post-cold war world.

Unpredictable countries with atomic potential — North Korea, Iraq and Ukraine among them — are the new headaches for the established nuclear powers.

Russia's new military doctrine, containing among other things new guidelines on nuclear weapon use, was approved this week by President Boris Yeltsin. It tries to come to grips with Moscow's loss of empire following the end of the Soviet Union.

Its approval came just days after U.S. Defence Secretary Les Aspin ordered a comprehensive review of Washington's entire nuclear arms policy, expected to be completed by next summer.

On the face of it, the two countries' new policies go in "different directions."

While Mr. Aspin said he was

seeking deep cuts in the U.S. atomic arsenal — to below even the 3,500 warheads by the year 2000 set by the START-2 treaty with Russia — the Kremlin renounced its 11-year-old pledge not to be the first to use nuclear arms.

In fact the two countries, which built up arsenals of over 10,000 strategic warheads each during the cold war, are united by the belief that the other does not now present the main threat. They have smaller fish to fry.

Announcing his nuclear review last week, Mr. Aspin said the Soviet threat had subsided even though Russia's arsenal still existed. "The new nuclear danger stems from the possibility of a handful of nuclear weapons in less reliable hands," he said.

He identified these as "rogue states or terrorist groups." Mr. Aspin mentioned no names, but suspect number one is North Korea, which has refused to open nuclear sites to international inspection amid fears that it may be developing atomic weapons.

The defence secretary dis-

cussed the problem this week with officials in Japan and South Korea.

"The two countries are united by the belief that the other does not now present the main threat: They have smaller fish to fry."

Another potential threat comes from Iraq, which was working on nuclear weapons before its defeat in the 1991 Gulf war. Since then, the United Nations has been destroying Iraq's weapons of mass destruction but is still not satisfied with the nuclear data supplied by Baghdad.

For Russia, potential foes closer to home may have

prompted Moscow's decision to abandon its no-first-use pledge, made by former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev in a message to the United Nations in 1982.

Western diplomats said NATO, unable to respond in kind because of its own reliance on nuclear forces to deter a Warsaw pact conventional attack, had never taken the pledge seriously because it was not contained in any binding document.

"The West felt it was a declaratory statement that could be unsaid as easily as it was said," one diplomat recalled.

Paradoxically, there was some satisfaction in western capitals last week that Russia had dropped "a piece of Soviet propaganda" and "come round to the western way of thinking."

Some diplomats and analysts speculated that Russia's new policy of forswearing use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states may have been aimed at Ukraine, which still has strategic missiles left over from the Soviet period.

Ukraine has delayed ratifying the START treaties and joining the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and is threatening to hang on to its most modern missiles, apparently in the hope of receiving huge financial compensation for giving them up.

"Moscow may be wanting to signal to the Ukrainians that if they want to become a nuclear weapons state, there is a nuclear threat facing them from Russia as well," said Christoph Bluth, a German arms control analyst.

Other analysts, however, suggested that Russia's proviso that it might respond with nuclear arms to an attack on itself or its allies by a non-nuclear state allied to a nuclear one could be directed at NATO member Turkey.

Turkey sympathises with Turkic-speaking Azerbaijan in its conflict with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh.

"This is a warning to Turkey — hands off the Caucasus," said Charles Dick of Britain's Sandhurst Military Academy. "Turkey is perceived in Moscow as carrying the flag of Islamic fundamentalism into

the former Soviet Union."

Most analysts saw a strong element of shadow boxing in the entire debate, and saw no prospect of nuclear weapons being used by Russia or Ukraine, let alone the United States.

One irony is that America's Aspin is on record as having suggested — in a study issued in January 1992, a year before he became defence secretary — that the United States should adopt a no-first-use pledge.

That prospect now seems remote, given the Russian decision to abandon it.

But Mr. Aspin last week made a point shared by independent analysts that whereas during the cold war it was the West which relied on nuclear weapons to deter conventional attacks, the tables have now been turned.

"For the United States, nuclear weapons were (formerly) the big equaliser," he said. "In this new world, our conventional military strength is unmatched. But if a potential adversary had nuclear weapons, we could turn out to be the equaliser."

Inhumane death-row phenomenon condemned

By Waleed M. Sadi

Recently the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the London-based body that acts as an appeal court of last resort to the Commonwealth countries, broke new grounds in human rights when it decided that prolonged waiting for execution amounts to cruel and inhuman treatment, necessitating the abolition of the death sentence and its commutation to life imprisonment. This is a landmark decision that went by unnoticed. Many countries still apply the death sentence.

What brought the death-row issue before the Privy Council in the first place were two Jamaicans called Pratt and Morgan, convicted of crime of the first degree and sentenced to death in 1979. The issue was not whether any irregularities took place during their trial, but rather that they have been "waiting" to be executed for about fourteen years!

The same case was under review by an international tribunal under a special procedure that allows the reconsideration of decisions of the highest courts of any state which has ratified the optional protocol of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The jurisprudence of this quasi-judicial body has been supportive of the thesis that the long time a person condemned to death spends in appealing his execution court decision in a bid to thwart it cannot be

reasonably construed as cruel and inhuman treatment. In other words, as long as the waiting time is due to court procedures that a felon spends to repeal his or her conviction, there can be no cause for alarm from a human rights point of view.

Human Rights File

This legal perspective is especially recognised in the United States, and other common law countries where people condemned to death delay their executions by all available means. The American jurisprudence on this particular issue, for example, has been supportive of the attempts by so many condemned persons to exhaust all their legal remedies till the bitter end. It has never been accepted that a person can frustrate the decision of the highest court of his country to put him or her to death by simply resorting to legal ploys, or legitimate defensive tactics.

The international tribunal has conceded that unreasonable delays in carrying out the death sentence due to factors that can be attributable to state parties' criminal, procedural or practices can lead to a verdict in favour of repealing the death sentence. Delays that are attributable to the victim himself,

meaning submissions of the various stages of appeals at the most stretched out periods, cannot be interpreted as a cause to reverse his or her execution court decision. In other words, the jurisprudence of the international body has made a distinction between delays due to state parties laws and practices and delays that are solely due to the victim himself or herself.

The significance of the Privy Council latest ruling on this issue lies in the fact that no distinctions were entertained between the two separate sets of delays and their reasons. The Privy Council simply ruled out that prolonged delays in carrying out the death sentence is cruel and inhuman treatment per se, no matter whose fault it is. This is a far-reaching decision the legal fallout of which are bound to affect the development of the international jurisprudence on the so-called death row phenomenon.

As to what amounts to prolonged delays, the London-based council decided that more than five years will amount to cruel and inhuman treatment. The judges sitting on the bench of the Judicial Committee of the council had to give some specific guidelines and may have erred in stipulating the five years yardstick. This could be an arbitrary measurement because in some situations, waiting for three years is more cruel than waiting for ten years under different conditions. Still the learned judges had to make a decision and they ruled that five years in the limit that any person condemned to die must wait

even though the waiting is of his or her own making.

To me, the clear message in this latest pronouncement on the death penalty is that the abolitionist forces in the world's legal profession are gaining strength. In Jordan, this sentiment has yet to be shared. Besides, the period between an execution judgment and its implementation in this country is never stretched out beyond a very limited number of months. This speedy implementation of the death sentence may still be viewed by some as a grave violation of human rights. Where to draw the line between what could be termed as precipitous executions on one hand and drawn out ones on the other is something that will haunt human rights activists for a long time, until the real debate on the death penalty itself is resolved one way or another.

The writer is a veteran human rights activist on the international level. He was a member of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, the main and central international organ on human rights, and its chairman in 1980. Mr. Sadi also served as member and vice chairman of the U.N. Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities. Currently he is on the board of the 18-member tribunal that monitors the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and interprets the meaning of its provisions. He will contribute this weekly column on basic human rights and developments in the field.

West looks set to stick with Yeltsin

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuters

LONDON — Western countries, which have backed Russian President Boris Yeltsin up to the hilt through two years of political struggles, look set to stick with him despite claims that he is setting himself up as a new "tsar".

Mr. Yeltsin's opponents have charged that a new draft constitution published this week gives him near-dictatorial powers and that rules for parliamentary elections on Dec. 12 will ensure that opposition parties get nowhere.

But so far the allegations have cut little ice in western capitals, where support for Mr. Yeltsin remains overwhelming.

The European Community (EC) has chosen help for the Russian elections as one of two "joint actions" — the other is humanitarian aid to Bosnia — under its new common foreign and security policy which came into force on Nov. 1.

EC countries will send observers to monitor the polls and would clearly be embarrassed if the elections turned out to be fraudulent. But western diplomats said nothing that had happened so far was likely

to lead them to that conclusion.

"Frankly, I think it would have to be a pretty flagrant attempt to corner the market that would lead them to say these elections are not being conducted in a free and fair way," one diplomat said.

The new draft constitution which, experts agree, greatly expands the powers of the president at the expense of parliament, is also being viewed in relaxed fashion in the West.

"It seems to make for a strong presidential republic, which is not in itself anti-democratic," said one diplomatic analyst. "We shouldn't confuse dictatorship with strong government."

EC Commission President Jacques Delors has said the text was found by community experts to be "acceptable" and broadly in line with western presidential systems.

Diplomats and analysts said the draft had to be seen against the background of the power struggle between president and parliament — based on contradictions in the old constitution — which had paralysed Russian politics for the last two years.

"The problem now is the ability to create a viable system for adopting and implementing decisions," said Vladimir Baranovsky, Russian analyst at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Mr. Baranovsky also said he doubted whether the qualification procedure for political groups to enter the elections — 13 were admitted and eight others disqualified — amounted to a deliberate attempt to eliminate opposition.

"What is important for the ruling group is legitimacy and for this it is important to minimise accusations of violations of the rules of the game," he said, adding that the parties admitted represented 90 per cent of Russian political opinion.

Experts said the only major group excluded was the nationalist Russian All-People's Union, led by Sergei Baburin, which has said it would not participate in the elections.

My view is that if the electoral commission can find some face-saving way of getting Mr. Baburin's group back

on the list, they will have done themselves a service," a diplomat said.

But there has been no sign of alarm among western leaders over the fate of Mr. Baburin's group, or over Mr. Yeltsin's decision to see out his full presidential term until 1996, reversing an earlier pledge to stand for reelection next June.

Mr. Yeltsin, who before the collapse of the Soviet Union was seen in the West as a disruptive and unstable politician, has since been viewed as chief bulwark against the prospect western governments most dread — chaos in Russia.

They backed him when he triumphed over a communist coup attempt in August 1991. They backed him before a referendum on his rule last April. And they backed him again when he used tanks to crush the rebellious parliament on Oct. 4.

Their chief concern now, diplomats say, is to see a stable, free-market system established in Russia.

Political pluralism, with reg-

ular accountability of president and parliament to voters, is also a requirement but officials say it is unrealistic to measure Russia by the standards of countries with long democratic traditions.

Western media have shown more unease but are still inclined to give Mr. Yeltsin the benefit of the doubt for now. Britain's right-wing Daily Telegraph said the draft constitution would make him "a new tsar" but added: "There is a good case for saying that a tsar is what Russia requires."

In a clear vote of confidence in the political process set in place by Mr. Yeltsin, the European Community has invited him to Brussels on Dec. 9 — three days before the elections — to sign a declaration of intent on a Russian-European partnership.

Such reservations as western leaders do have about the Russian leader's actions they have decided are best handled through quiet words of advice, diplomats say.

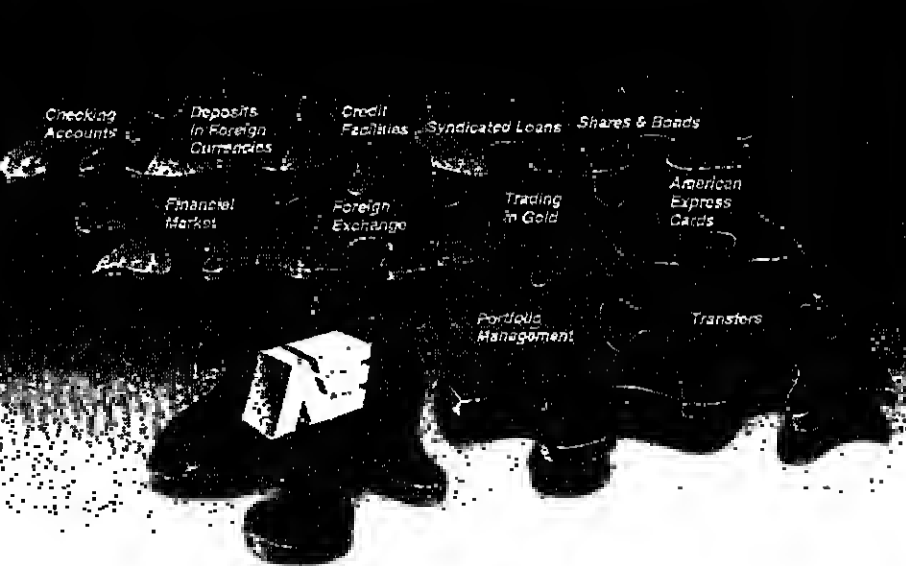
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Where have all the eastern Germans gone?

By Louis Godberg

BONN — According to a recent opinion poll in the weekly Die Zeit, most eastern Germans (69 per cent) are satisfied with their living conditions three years after reunification. Yet 84 per cent of Ossis (as eastern Germans are known) deeply regret the loss of certain values cherished by the former communist regime, such as job security and child care.

Charlotte Höhn, president of the Wiesbaden-based Institute of Population Sciences, says this may explain why eastern Germany has been gripped by "demographic paralysis" since 1989, the year the Berlin wall came down. With uncertainty hanging over their future, Ossis are producing half as many children as they used to. In some Länder the birth rate has fallen 70 per cent.

Not only has this accentuated the ageing of the German population as a whole, which has been steadily shrinking since the seventies, but it could result in a labour shortage in eastern Germany by next century.

Demographers have rightly described the trend as "dramatic": at no time, not even during its darkest hours, has Germany's birth rate fallen like this (during the two world wars and the 1930s crisis it dropped by "only" 25 per cent).

New statistics show that 107,769 babies were born in eastern Germany in 1991, compared with 198,922 in 1989. According to the weekly Der Spiegel, the 1992 figures are expected to dip below the 100,000 mark. The birth rate has fallen from 12 to 5.3 births per 1,000 live births (almost half that of western Germany), while the total fertility rate of women of child-bearing age has plummeted from 1.70 children in 1989 to 0.77. A comparison of births and deaths in the new Länder shows a shortfall of almost 95,000 people.

Several reasons lie behind this. As in Poland, Hungary and former Czechoslovakia — "but to a much greater extent," says Höhn — Ossis have modelled their family-building on that of the West. "East German women used to expect to have more children than their counterparts in the West," she says. "But above all people got married and had children younger, because it made it easier for them to find housing."

Although population growth was an East German government priority, the generation replacement threshold was never reached and deaths outnumbered births from the 1970s on. There were all sorts of incentives to make it easier for families to have more children. As most women worked, day nurseries were available in all companies and even in universities. Mothers obtained handsome maternity leave payments and were certain of getting their jobs back after having a baby.

All these provisions were scrapped after reunification. Rising prices, fear of unemployment and the dismantling of the former social infrastructure, combined with fewer marriages and more divorces, are the main causes of the present "demographic paralysis."

More than 60 per cent of jobless Ossis are women. Mothers are one of the social categories that have been hardest hit by reunification. Having a child has now even become a hindrance to finding a job. Some women, particularly in the 25-30 age bracket, have had themselves sterilised so as to make themselves "more attractive" to unscrupulous employers. In the city of Magdeburg (pop. 270,000), 1,200 sterilisation operations were carried out in 1992, compared with only eight in 1989.

Immediately after reunification, the number of abortions shot up, even though abortion legislation in communist East Germany had been more liberal than in West Germany. The abortion rate has now fallen. Mr. Höhn says the only explanation for this is that most women must now be taking the pill.

Demographers expect population trends in eastern and western Germany to converge within a few years. Ossis have become more individualistic and hedonistic than they were under the previous regime.

The ageing of the population in the east, on the other hand, looks set to be a lasting phenomenon. It is not being caused solely by a falling birth rate: eastern Germany is quite literally being drained of its lifeblood. More than 100,000 Ossis are now settling in the West each year, mostly highly qualified young people who have no difficulty in securing a job — and who have children.

The least affluent new eastern Länder, such as Mecklenburg-West Pomerania and Brandenburg, are the worst affected by the exodus. Leipzig and Dresden each had a population of more than 600,000 before World War II. Now only one eastern German city has more than 500,000 inhabitants: the solitary, well-populated oasis of Berlin — Le Monde.



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La documentación, traducida al español, deberá ser enviada en sobre certificado a este centro, Mohammad Hafiz Ma'at, 10 P.O. Box 815467 Ammán, antes del día 1 de diciembre, indicando la referencia.

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BIS: Derivative products boom

BASEL (AFP) — The market for derivative instruments is booming, figures published by the Bank of International Settlements (BIS) have showed.

The market grew by 62.5 per cent in the second half of last year from the figure for the first half to a record high figure of \$1,650 billion for interest rate and currency contracts alone in terms of the notional principal.

In its report for the second quarter the bank said that it did not have figures for instruments for interest rate futures, foreign exchange options and futures, and derivatives for shares and base materials.

Of the total of \$1,650 billion, interest rate contracts accounted for \$1,504 billion which was 75 per cent more than during the same period of 1991 and currency contracts for

\$146 billion representing a fall of 13 per cent.

At the end of 1992 the total of notional principal was \$3,851 billion for interest rate contracts and \$860 billion for currency.

The governors of the central banks from the leading 10 countries discussed the explosion of derivatives markets last week.

The bank also reported that international bank credit had declined by slightly more than six per cent at an annual rate in the second quarter. This figure had been exceeded only once, in the second quarter of 1991, the bank said.

But the overall number of announced international issues had continued at a high rate and was little less than the historic high figures of the previous quarter.

Asia-Pacific prepares for historic summit as storm brews over trade

TOKYO (AFP) — Asia-Pacific leaders hold their first ever summit this week with storm clouds gathering on the world trade horizon and amid divergent views about the pace of economic liberalisation in the region.

With few concrete results likely to emerge from the informal meeting of leaders from the 15-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in Seattle, the fact the summit is being held at all is widely seen as a major achievement.

The historic talks, proposed by U.S. President Bill Clinton on a visit to Tokyo in July, have largely overshadowed the question of APEC itself, which accounts for half the world's economic output and 40 per cent of global trade.

The group, which first met in Canberra in 1989, comprises Japan, South Korea, China,

Taiwan and Hong Kong, the six-member Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

APEC currently has a small secretariat in Singapore and operates several working groups aimed at promoting regional trade and investment, although some members would like to strengthen the group's role faster than others.

Given its potential clout, APEC is in a unique position to provide a strong impetus in the long-stalled Uruguay round of global trade talks.

With the deadline for successfully concluding the round looming on Dec. 15, the talks are bogged down by bitter differences between the United States and the European Community over agricultural trade.

Japan's Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said last week the European Community was the "biggest obstacle" to concluding the Uruguay Round.

Singapore's elder statesman Lee Kuan Yew went further in a speech in Tokyo last month, blaming "unfortunate remarks" by German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and "irrational fears" of Asia supported by French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur.

The retired Singaporean prime minister, now a senior minister in the government of Goh Chok Tong, said East Asia should use APEC to develop closer economic ties with the United States, driving a wedge across the Atlantic.

"Restricting imports from Japan, China and the rest of Asia means going on a collision course. The EC may be prepared to risk this, but not if

Former Soviet states face shock of Russian reforms

WASHINGTON (R) — The West and Russia will need to step up financial aid to Ukraine and other former Soviet states to help them cope with a \$15.8 billion shock from Moscow's reforms, international monetary sources have said.

They said a new, unpublished study by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), reckons that the shock of the former Soviet states outside Russia will lose in a year as Moscow cuts off cheap credits and subsidised exports to them as part of its reforms.

The states will have to make up for the loss in terms of trade through of a combination of their own reforms — making their economies more efficient — and extra foreign financing.

Western nations have already penciled into their budgets increased assistance to Ukraine and other former Soviet states, but the amounts involved are not very big.

"Given that the size of the shock is so large, we have to make every effort to ensure that the assistance committed by the West is forthcoming," one source said.

Cash-strapped Russia has also signalled its willingness to provide some assistance to the other former republics from its budget to help compensate for the losses caused by its reforms.

Monetary sources said that the extra foreign help should be provided in support of tough economic reform programmes, so that the money does not end up getting frittered away.

Some of the former Soviet republics are pursuing such reform programmes, but others, most notably Ukraine, are not.

The IMF study calculates that Ukraine and the other former Soviet republics outside Russia can count on about an extra \$3 to \$6 billion in "external" financing next year.

Yemen gas project may cost \$5.5b

SANAA (R) — Yemen's project to export natural gas to Asia in partnership with the U.S. firm Enron Corporation will cost around \$5.5 billion to set up, a Yemeni newspaper said Sunday.

The weekly English-language Yemen Times said the initial three-year phase of the liquefied natural gas (LNG) project would cost \$3.5 billion including cost of a pipeline and a vessel to transport the gas.

A second two-year phase will cost \$2 billion.

Enron said Thursday it had reached a tentative agreement to help process, export and market Yemen's gas.

It gave no value for the project, which would involve moving natural gas from General Gas Corp of Yemen through a 400-kilometre pipeline to a coastal export terminal, treatment and liquefaction of the gas marketing it as LNG.

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Sri Lanka faces major tea crisis

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's famous tea industry is in a major crisis with loss-making estates complaining that high costs and wage demands are pricing them out of the world market, industry officials have said.

Estate managers said they cannot afford powerful labour union demands for minimum work or wages in lieu of the face of falling prices for the island's biggest export commodity.

Sri Lanka's tea estates have become unprofitable because of constant union wage hikes, previous bad management and a lack of affordable long-term funding, the industry officials said.

The tea estates are facing a major crisis, having priced themselves out of the world market, a senior government official said. "They have to bring down their costs of labour."

The 500,000-strong Ceylon Workers Congress (CWC), which has repeatedly wrested wage rises from the government by threatening strikes, is insisting its members be given a minimum of 300 days of work each year or be paid instead.

Tea workers would consider industrial action if their demands were not met, according to CWC leader Saumyamoorthy Thondaman, who is also the government's tourism minister.

"They are not considering the suffering of the workers who have to face increases in the cost of living," he said in a recent interview. "We insist that either we are given 300 days of work each year or are paid. If not we will have to organise protests."

Estate trade union officials say the labourers, who are paid daily wages, have become increasingly restive in recent months because of cutbacks in the number of work days.

Mr. Thondaman said several estates had cut the number of annual paid work days in about 200, although they originally had agreed to a minimum of 300 days.

The private management companies that leased the island's state-owned, money-losing tea estates a year ago have said they cannot afford to meet CWC demands, that the cost of labour — 88 per cent of production costs — is already too high.

Brokers said the cost of producing a kilogramme of Sri Lanka tea is about 74 rupees (\$1.5), while the average market price is around 88 rupees per kilogramme.

Prices at the auctions, where about four to five million kilogrammes of tea with an average value of 300 million rupees (about \$6 million), are sold each week, have also fallen recently because of the weak demand, large volume and poor quality.

The government leased tea estates to private sector management companies a year ago to cut losses.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY NOVEMBER 15, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Concentrate on improving health and increasing vitality as you assist associates with new plans and gather information from well-informed professionals who have a real grasp of exactly what's happening in the marketplace.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Now you find it difficult to concentrate upon the particular course of action that you have prepared for yourself in the world of outside activity.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You see several ways to handle the money matters that come in your attention and need to keep concentrated upon the actual benefits possible to you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You are apt to dash in various directions trying to obtain some personal desire which eludes you until you are more focused in your activities.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have all kinds of private means by which you wish to place your innermost aims into effect but you need discrimination in deciding the right one for you.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) If you can see ways to get a logical minded but inconstant friend to carry through with a plan you have in mind you can gain worthwhile results.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Consider what you want from one in a position of influence before you contact, then organise your ideas sensible and you are apt to gain support.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have strong inner pressures to make some changes and to be fit to new interests and personalities but stop, look and plan sensibly first.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) If you try to angle yourself out of some premises you have made that you find that what you now do can react very much to your disadvantage.

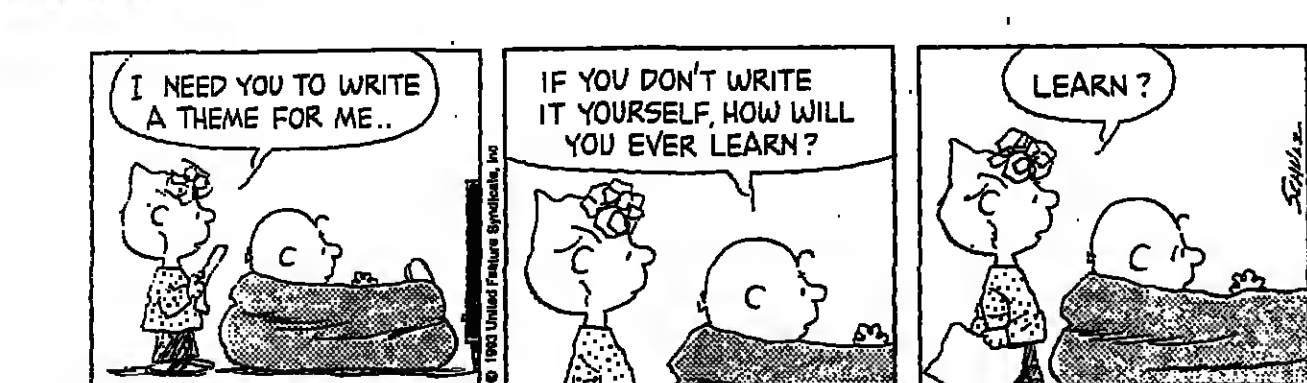
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can be irritated because you can't get a partner who has a fine mind to be still long enough to listen to and follow ideas, important to you.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) There are a number of facets to you: work activities now and it is advisable that you be alert to the various ones and not focus upon any one of them too much.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Think about the pleasures that you most enjoy but don't try to force them into expression now if obstacles arise, especially if expensive.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Show you are the one who can maintain your cool and not get upset when some condition arises beneath your own roof that causes some friction there.

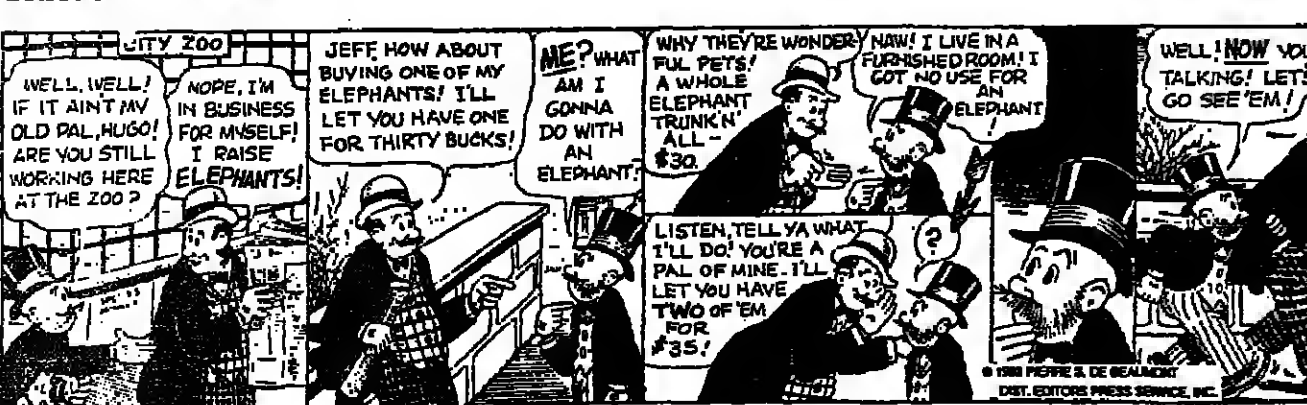
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PHACT
ZOTAP
LYBAFB
TOAPIE

Answer here: HE WAS

Yesterday's Jumbles: LITHE FORGO BUCKET MEMORY
Answer: What the doctor charged for his cold remedy — "COUGH-FEE"

TOPAZ - TIGER EYE

in gold at
D. J. & S. Jewellers
Anra Hotel
Jubilee Circle

THE Daily Crossword

by James Barrick

ACROSS

- Expense
- Grain husks
- Empower
- podrida
- Asian capital
- Make sharper
- Unauthorized disclosure
- Zodiac sign
- Charged particles
- Pubs
- Wasp
- Boisterous fun
- Writer Truman
- Extra pay
- Scarf
- As — (usually)
- Required share
- Sluether
- Spot
- Plough edges
- Lika some
- talkers
- Prov. in Can.
- Phonics
- Sound loudly
- Noted for press
- Travelled without purpose
- 11 in a bit
- Remainder
- as clothes
- Ceremonial act
- Tedious
- Companions
- Usual routine
- Where Dublin is
- Quechua
- Speak publicly
- Rod for rearing
- Ag.
- Refuge
- Hardy name
- OWN
- Patrol inventor
- Genus of olives
- Certain
- European
- Cash on
- Coins
- Grating
- Black cuckoo
- Adversary
- Senes
- Insistent craving
- Most happy
- Wild disturbance
- Prosperity
- Reverent
- Unlucky
- Egg portion
- Shaded
- Corn bread
- upon...
- Mature
- "Exodus" author
- 54 NY team
- 57 Altar
- consolation
- 58 — relief

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS: 1. EXPENSE, 2. HUSKS, 3. EMPOWER, 4. PODRIDA, 5. MANILA, 6. SHARPEN, 7. DISCLOSURE, 8. SIGN, 9. PARTICLES, 10. PUBS, 11. WASP, 12. FUN, 13. TRUMAN, 14. PAY, 15. SCARF, 16. AS, 17. SHARE, 18. SLUTTER, 19. SPOT, 20. EDGES, 21. LIKA, 22. TALKERS, 23. CANADA, 24. PHONICS, 25. LOUDLY, 26. PRESS, 27. PURPOSE, 28. BIT, 29. REMAINDER, 30. CLOTHES, 31. ACT, 32. TEDIOUS, 33. COMPANIONS, 34. ROUTINE, 35. DUBLIN, 36. QUECHUA, 37. PUBLICLY, 38. REARING, 39. AG, 40. REFUGE, 41. HARDY, 42. OWN, 43. INVENTOR, 44. OLIVES, 45. CERTAIN, 46. EUROPEAN, 47. CASH, 48. COINS, 49. GRATING, 50. CUCKOO, 51. ADVERSARY, 52. SENES, 53. CRAVING, 54. HAPPY, 55. DISTURBANCE, 56. PROSPERITY, 57. REVERENT, 58. UNLUCKY, 59. PORTION, 60. SHADY, 61. CORN, 62. UPON, 63. MATURE, 64. EXODUS, 65. TEAM, 66. ALTAR, 67. CONSOLATION, 68. RELIEF.

Vietnam communist boss condemns corruption

HANOI (Agencies) — Vietnam's top official, Communist Party chief Do Muoi, lashed out at corruption saying the party would get the blame if it was not rooted out.

Breaking away from a prepared speech opening Vietnam's seventh national congress of trade unions, Mr. Muoi said workers should help stamp out corruption.

"We have to be very determined to punish corruption cases, but we still need a mechanism to get to the root of the problem," he said, to applause from more than 600 delegates.

Mr. Muoi's was the latest in a series of official attacks on growing corruption and smuggling as Communist-ruled Vietnam moves towards a market economy.

A Communist Party meeting last month heard that more than 2,000 cases of corruption and smuggling had been uncovered in the last year, including one in an undisclosed province in which 40 per cent of funds earmarked for poverty alleviation went missing.

Mr. Muoi said corruption had become widespread.

"Maybe the people will severely criticise the party and our organisations and our state elected by the people ... for allowing corruption to take place," he said, adding:

"In a short time, we have to solve the problem completely and not to allow it to develop, because corruption eventually means the exploitation of workers ..."

The congress, the first such gathering for five years, heard a keynote report from its secretary urging unions and workers to adapt to problems posed by the market economy — including unemployment, underemployment, and an increasing rate of accidents at work and occupational diseases.

Since the late 1980s, when market reforms began, more than 700,000 workers and state employees had been laid off when over 2,000 state-owned

firms were wound up, the report said. A similar number of workers were thrown into part-time work, it said.

The report did not directly address the question of the right to strike but urged trade unions to try to avoid conflicts.

The issue of strikes has grown this year after several stoppages at joint-ventures plants, especially textile factories in Ho Chi Minh City run by Taiwanese or South Korean entrepreneurs.

But the report appeared to take the workers' side in conflicts with management, referring obliquely to what Vietnamese newspapers have criticised as a hard-driving Asian management style.

Since 1992, it said, there had been "dozens of collective reactions against the misconduct of the management accompanied with claims for pay rises and democratic behaviour from the employers."

These had also taken place at some state-owned enterprises, the report said.

This was unavoidable in a market economy but trade unions should seek "a fair settlement of the contradiction before it may lead to a conflict," it said.

If there was a conflict, unions should take steps to protect workers' legitimate interests without harming economic growth and political stability, the report said.

Meanwhile, the Saigon Giai Phong newspaper reported that most of the tens of thousands of Vietnamese workers sent under bilateral agreements to work in countries of the former Soviet Union are now unemployed.

Increasing numbers of the emigrants are victims of the reorganisation and changes in the economies of the member nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), particularly Russia, Ukraine and Belarus, the newspaper said.

Ethiopia to allow private banks

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia, further discarding its staunch Marxist past, has said it would allow its citizens to set up private banks.

But National Bank (central bank) Governor Leikun Berhanu said the landmark reform would not go as far as opening the sector to foreign investors.

"Private banking business will be open only for local entrepreneurs because we believe it is not a priority at this time to invite foreign investors," Mr. Leikun said in an interview.

Mr. Leikun did not rule out a change in laws at a later date to allow foreigners: "Everything is dynamic and it is possible to consider foreign participation in the banking business in the future."

Like all other sectors of the economy, all private banks open in Ethiopia were nationalised after the Marxist revolution of 1974.

They included the Addis Ababa Bank, which operated in partnership with the National Grindlay's Bank of Britain, Banco di Roma and Banco di Napoli.

The government of President Meles Zenawi, which ousted dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam in 1991, has tried to rebuild an economy shattered

by civil war and past poor management.

Mr. Leikun said that a law allowing the establishment of private banks had already been approved by the Ethiopian cabinet.

Mr. Leikun said the draft legislation had now been forwarded to the council of representatives (parliament) for final approval before it became operational.

He said Ethiopians who wanted to set up private banks would only be required to have a knowledge of banking and a minimum affordable capital to start such a business.

The governor said the banking reform was part of Ethiopia's new economic changes which have the backing of both the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

"Before we accepted the IMF and World Bank structural adjustment programmes, we examined and exhaustively studied the failures, the pitfalls and mistakes of those who have tried such adjustments before us," said Mr. Leikun.

The country was bankrupted by Mengistu's Marxist policies and remains one of the poorest in the world, with a per capita income estimated at less than \$100 annually.

Micronesia's legislators worry about overspending

AGANA, Guam (R) — Members of congress of the federated states of Micronesia have expressed concern over the Pacific island state's excessive spending on consumer goods and government inefficiency.

"I would not be so concerned if the money we spent overseas was going to purchase the infrastructure, capital and tools we will need to support our future businesses," said senior congressman Isaac Figir.

Unfortunately, almost all of our help from foreign countries is going to short-term consumption," Mr. Figir said.

Micronesia, under a 15-year compact of free association with the United States forged in 1986, receives aid annually in exchange for U.S. military access to the island nation. It got \$60 million yearly in the first six years of the compact.

Starting this year to 1997, the aid package has been trimmed to \$51 million annually.

Mr. Figir, citing Micronesia's excesses, said in 1991 it spent \$6 million on beer and cigarettes, \$5 million on pri-

vate cars and \$6.5 million on imported meat.

"We are now over halfway through the term of the compact and a look at our current practices is not encouraging," Mr. Figir said. "On the world market, we buy about three times more than we sell... no household or country can do that (for) long."

Congress vice speaker Dohsis Albert said another major problem was government inefficiency in Micronesia, about 4,000 kilometres east of the Philippine capital, Manila.

"Probably the worst of government staff abuse is found in congress," Mr. Albert said. He recommended sanctions on inefficient government employees and cuts in salaries of congressmen.

Congress deliberation over the islands' two major problems was initiated by Micronesia President Bailey Olter who asked legislators last month to examine the economy and find ways of spurring economic growth.

Kuwait may allow foreign role in oil, minister says

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti Finance Minister Nasser Al Rodhan said in an interview that Kuwait might allow foreign firms some form of participation in oil exploration and drilling.

"It is possible we will allow foreign participation in oil exploration and drilling for the first time in decades," Sheikh Rodhan told the newspapers Al Seyasseh and the Arab Times.

"This subject is under study. The motives behind such decisions are economic and not for paying (political) bills, because the liberation of Kuwait was

based on supporting international legality," he pointed out.

He was referring to the U.S.-led military campaign which drove Iraqi forces out of Kuwait in February 1991.

An oil industry official who declined to be identified told Reuters on Oct. 20 Kuwait was studying the possibility of oil production sharing deals with foreign companies.

State-owned Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) produces oil inside Kuwait proper. In a neutral zone shared by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the emirate has a concession agreement

dating back to 1958 with Japan's Arabian Oil Company.

British Petroleum Exploration has an agreement with KOC to provide technical support and Union Carbide Corp. of the United States in June signed a memorandum of understanding with the state-owned Petrochemical Industries Company to build a petrochemicals complex by 1997.

"It is true we have decided to allow foreign partners into some oil projects," Sheikh Rodhan was quoted as saying. "We want to benefit from foreign expertise in building a giant petrochemicals complex,

where we believe foreign partners are a success factor."

"There are terms and restrictions. Those should be applied to everyone," he said, speaking in general of the role of foreign firms in the slow liberalisation of the economy.

"It is true we have opened up for foreigners mainly to attract foreign expertise and

also capital. The Kuwaiti market is not only for Americans. It is open for foreign investors who have the expertise and know-how and the capital," he added.

The state-owned Kuwait Foreign Trading Contracting and Investment Company will shortly launch an investment fund that will give non-Gulf

Arab nationals their first opportunity to invest, albeit indirectly, on the Kuwait Stock Exchange.

Only citizens of Gulf Cooperation Council countries — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — can now buy shares on the exchange.

Germany's runaway firms: Poland, Hungary and Czech Republic are attractive

BONN, Germany (AP) — Some 30 per cent of German companies plan to move some operations overseas in the next three years to flee high German wage and tax costs, according to a survey.

The report by the German Industry and Trade Association was more bad news for the jobless. A half million Germans have been thrown out of work in the last 12 months, leaving business and political leaders scrambling to keep jobs and prevent social upheaval.

Labour costs in Germany are among the highest in the world, averaging more than 40 marks (\$24) an hour. They are as much as eight times higher than in neighbouring eastern European lands.

The Czech republic, Poland and Hungary were the most important destinations for planned investments among the 10,000 businesses surveyed. Asian nations were the next most popular.

A total of 3.52 million Germans are unemployed, the most since German reunification, and economists expect the number to rise to four million next year. Nearly another one million are underemployed or in training programmes.

Some economists see a parallel between German capital flight abroad and U.S. firms that pick up and move to Latin America, Eastern Europe, experts say, offers irresistible opportunities that inevitably affect the German workforce.

"There are certain kinds of production that will never be done more cheaply in Germany than in Poland," said Axel Nitschke, an economist at the trade and industry association.

"But Germany can't survive merely by giving work to managers and directors," he added. Industry needs more flexible working hours, lower wages and loosened regulations, he said.

German firms make about 30 billion marks (\$17.4 billion) in direct investment overseas each year, Mr. Nitschke said. About a quarter of all German firms have set up shop abroad in the past three years, including new forays into the United States.

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Sri Lankan troops retake camp, rescue trapped comrades

COLOMBO (AP) — Government troops recaptured a key military camp from Tamil Tiger guerrillas Sunday and rescued about 900 soldiers trapped inside.

"The government troops are in full control and there is no more Tiger resistance," army spokesman Brig. Angammana told the Associated Press.

The capture came as rebel fighters began withdrawing from the base, Brig. Angammana said, there were no immediate details on the withdrawal, which officials earlier had said might be a diversionary tactic.

"We have reached the camp and linked up with the trapped soldiers," Brig. Angammana said. "We will now consolidate positions and stabilise the area."

The 900 soldiers, many of them wounded, had been holed up in trenches and buildings in the southern part of the Pooneryn camp since rebels captured it Thursday.

Helicopters were being sent to evacuate the wounded, Brig. Angammana said.

About 1,700 soldiers inched their way through heavily mined territory and rebel fire to reach the base, Brig. Angammana said. It was not immediately clear if the army suffered casualties retaking the camp, Brig. Angammana said.

Earlier Sunday, 380 commandos landed on a beachhead five miles (eight kilometres) north of the base to help retake the base, which is 185 miles (300 kilometres) north of Colombo.

More than 400 government soldiers were killed when the rebels took the base. The military claims 450 rebels also died in the fighting, but that figure has not been independently confirmed.

The taking of Pooneryn, on the shore of the Jaffna lagoon, was a major blow to the military, which has tried to seal off the rebel-held Jaffna peninsula at the northern end of the island nation.

While the army has retaken the base, it lost a cache of arms and transport looted by the rebels before retreating. The Tigers in a statement claimed they captured five high-speed motor boats, two tanks, four 5-inch mortars, three mortar launchers, 11 artillery guns, one recoilless 106 mm gun, 50 light machine guns and 400 rifles. The army has confirmed the recovery of the cache but has not released a list of inventory.

The rebels have fought since 1983 to set up an independent nation for the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka's north and east more than 18,000 people have been killed in the fighting.

On Saturday, the rebels

raided an outpost at the Palaly Air Force Base, killing five soldiers and wounding 40 others, said a military officer, speaking on condition of anonymity.

President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga ordered the rescue mission "at any cost." Anxious relatives besieged military facilities with inquiries about the fate of loved ones serving at Pooneryn. One of the officers killed was a nephew of Defence Secretary General Hamilton Wanasinghe.

The Tigers, who admitted 100 of their own men had "attained martyrdom in this heroic act" offered to hand over bodies of government troops to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Sri Lankan officials said the Tigers had asked for and been given body bags. But was not confident the rebels would hand back the bodies as the Tigers had reneged on a similar promise on a different occasion.

They said the Tigers would be busy with their own casualties and unlikely they would have time to deliver the 300 bodies they claimed to have, the officials said.

An ICRC delegation went to Kilinochchi in Tiger-held territory Saturday but had not yet

returned, a defence source said.

The Sri Lankan Air Force bombed the main Sea-Tiger base and self-styled Tiger Police Headquarters in the northern Jaffna town which is separated from Pooneryn by the Jaffna Lagoon.

Mr. Wanasinghe admitted Saturday the attack took the military by surprise. But he told reporters the rebels began fleeing the area after the first group of reinforcements linked up with the defenders.

The Tigers, in a statement from their headquarters in London, said their forces controlled the army and naval complex at Pooneryn and more guerrillas were being sent there.

Defence analysts said the camp's fall would have given both separatists and civilians access across the lagoon to the mainland, unhindered by the navy.

A naval radar station destroyed in the attack had been monitoring lagoon movements. Hundreds of civilians have died during clashes between the navy and rebels on the lagoon.

In a separate incident, police reported three civilians killed when rebels attacked a group of Sinhalese farmers in north-east Polonnaruwa district Sunday.



Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto (centre) smiles as newly elected President Farooq Ahmad Leghari (right) shakes hand with opposition candidate Wasim Sajjad after the oath taking ceremony in Islamabad Sunday (AFP photo)

Bhutto welcomes ally as president

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — A jubilant Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto watched Sunday as one of her closest allies took the oath of office as Pakistan's president.

"It is a triumph for all those who struggled for democracy. We have been vindicated," Ms. Bhutto told reporters at a brief ceremony to swear in Farooq Leghari.

In the past, the president has been Ms. Bhutto's fiercest enemy, dismissing her government in 1990 and allegedly masterminding her defeat in the elections that followed. Ms. Bhutto has accused Mr. Leghari's predecessor, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, of "hatching plots" to undermine parliament, interfering in the running of the country and using the powerful military to force her out of power.

Mr. Leghari's election Saturday by the two houses of parliament and four provincial legislatures almost certainly guarantees that Ms. Bhutto's government will complete its five-year term.

Mr. Leghari, a 53-year-old landlord, defeated Acting President Wasim Sajjad, who was backed by Ms. Bhutto's political rival and predecessor, Nawaz Sharif.

Ms. Bhutto became prime minister and formed a coalition government last month following her party's narrow victory in national elections.

Pakistan's constitution gives the president authority to dismiss the elected government. Ishaq Khan, who resigned as president in July, used that authority to sack Ms. Bhutto's government in 1990 and Mr. Sharif's last April, accusing both governments of corruption and political ineptitude.

Ms. Bhutto has vowed to introduce a constitutional amendment limiting the powers of the president. Mr. Leghari has promised his support.

Mr. Leghari, a veteran supporter of Ms. Bhutto and a member of her Pakistan People's Party (PPP), defeated Mr. Sajjad by 106 votes in the 464-member Electoral College.

The 53-year-old, Oxford-educated Sami Muehmin and a big landlord from the politically important Punjab province, who is also known as Mr. Clean, was sworn in Sunday by Chief Justice Nasim Hassan Shah.

Soon after taking the oath, Mr. Leghari said the "dangers of destabilising democracy are over."

The ceremony was attended by Ms. Bhutto, senior civil and military officials and opposition deputies, including Mr. Sajjad.

"The presidency will no longer become the centre of intrigues and conspiracies," Mr. Leghari said, adding that the office would now serve as a source of strength for democracy.

Ms. Bhutto said her party will give political and constitutional support to removing the discretionary powers held by the presidency, including that of dissolving the National Assembly, commenting: "Leghari will amend it." While Mr. Sajjad's defeat was seen as a major political setback for Mr. Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League (PML), observers said the outcome was likely to minimise chances of political confrontation and power struggles.

Bitter Sharif foe and leader of the PML splinter group PML-Junejo, Hamid Nasir Chahtha, predicted a mass defection from the former premier's party after Ms. Bhutto won the first test of strength since she was voted to power in the parliamentary elections last month.

10,000 Taiwanese run against child prostitution

TAIPEI (R) — More than 10,000 Taiwanese jogged through Taipei's notorious red-light district Sunday to protest against the island's huge child prostitution industry. Civil groups estimate there are between 40,000 and 60,000 prostitutes under the age of 18 in Taiwan, some of them sold into prostitution by their parents. Social workers have caused police of turning a blind eye to the industry. Taiwan's interior, justice and finance ministers joined civic leaders, students and housewives in the six-kilometre (four-mile) jog past a row of shuttered brothels on Hua Hsi Street. "We are making an overall revision of current laws to close the loopholes allowing this to occur. We hope to remove the shame of this society," Justice Minister Ma Ying-jeou told reporters. At present police, citing inadequate laws, often release clients of prostitutes without punishment after detaining them briefly. Local media reports have said some police officers are protecting and even running brothels. Parliament is considering legislation which would require the names, addresses and photographs of clients of child prostitutes to be published in newspapers.

Castro does disco scene

CAYO COCO, Cuba (AP) — He may have looked out of place with his olive drab military garb, but President Fidel Castro appeared at ease as he watched scantily clad salsa dancers at Cuba's newest Western-style hotel. In a rare night out on the town, Mr. Castro was front and centre Friday for a cabaret show inaugurating a 560-room tourist hotel, the latest attraction in Cuba's drive to bring in badly needed hard currency for its battered economy. Mr. Castro applauded several times as he took in the show, with salsa music filling the discotheque of the Guitarr-Cayo Coco Hotel in eastern Cuba. "What sweet young people," Mr. Castro said as he admired the dancers, according to Spanish executive Fernando Imbernon, who was seated next to the leader of the Cuban Revolution. Mr. Imbernon is the vice president of the Spanish hotel group Guitarr, which built the hotel in a joint-venture with Cuba's orthodox Communist government.

McDonald's sets up hotline to satisfy Clinton's cravings

SEATTLE (AP) — President Bill Clinton will not have to worry about satisfying his infamous fast-food cravings during next week's trade conference now that McDonald's has set up a special hotline for him. A special bright red phone will be booked up at Mr. Clinton's hotel during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum Thursday and Friday, linking the president directly to the McDonald's restaurant across the street. "We thought we need to anticipate any needs he may have," said Rhonda Rosolot, manager of the hotel where Mr. Clinton will be staying in a \$1,500-a-night suite.

Florida schoolboys face cocaine charges

TAMPA, Fla. (R) — Six children, the youngest just nine years old, were arrested at an elementary school in the Florida City on cocaine possession charges, police said. "I believe this is about the youngest that I've seen. I've seen 13 and 14-year-olds with crack cocaine, but a 9-year-old, that's what startled me," said police Lieutenant John Garcia. "It's kind of heart-breaking." Lt. Garcia said the police were alerted to the situation at Mabry Elementary School through a teacher who had heard that some children might have drugs. They were summoned to the campus Friday. Police confiscated three and a half grammes of cocaine and left with six children under arrest. Lt. Garcia said. An 11-year-old boy who allegedly brought the drugs to school was charged with possessing cocaine with intent to distribute. The other five, ranging in age from 9 to 12, were charged with cocaine possession. All six were released to their parents, pending court appearances. Lt. Garcia said police were still trying to determine where the 11-year-old got the cocaine. He had given it to his schoolmates without charge, Lt. Garcia said.

U.N. troops guard frontline hospitals in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (R) — U.N. soldiers kept an overnight guard on hundreds of patients, including children and the mentally handicapped, in two frontline hospitals threatened by central Bosnian fighting, U.N. officials said Sunday.

Canadian and Danish peacekeepers troops provided food and protection for more than 570 patients in hospitals in the towns of Fojnica and near Bakovici after hospital staff failed to report for work amid rising tension and freezing weather.

The hospitals are without electricity and only 200 of the patients can walk. The rest are in wheelchairs, bedridden or dying. About 60 of the total are children.

U.N. officials in Sarajevo said that while Bakovici remained calm, Fojnica was tense with shells falling two kilometres north of the town at the rate of one an hour Saturday.

The U.N. sources said the Muslim-led Bosnian army appeared to have withdrawn from Fojnica although they still controlled the town by virtue of their positions surrounding it.

Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio accused the Bosnian Croat HVO militia of mounting attacks on the town, while Croatian radio said the HVO had repelled Muslim forces, inflicted heavy casualties and captured several villages.

U.N. officials said there was mortar fire north of the town of Vares, which fell to the Muslims earlier this month and that a Croat village in the area had been destroyed.

Villagers had fled Borovica, 12 kilometres west of Vares, after their houses had been demolished and the church set ablaze.

U.N. officials said the besieged Muslim town of Olovo, northeast of Sarajevo, came under increased shelling Saturday.

Officials reporting to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said Sarajevo civilians who fled to Olovo were facing desperate conditions. A few hundred civilian survivors in Olovo have been without outside food or aid for two months, while Serb forces have repeatedly shelled the town.

Despite the onset of winter, U.N. aid distribution has been stalled in central Bosnia since a Danish driver was killed three weeks ago. The Bosnian and Croatian governments agreed Friday to allow two relief convoys to cross battle zones.

Fighting was reported in the disputed southern city of Mostar Saturday, where the U.N. said the Muslim enclave on the east bank of the River Neretva was hit by at least 20 mortar bombs.

Sarajevo Radio said seven people died in a Croat mortar and artillery attack on the Muslim area of the city, while Croatian radio said Muslim forces had fired homemade explosives on Croat positions.

The city's 16th century bridge across the Neretva River collapsed earlier this week after artillery and mortar duels finally took their toll.

Clashes between Muslims were reported in the break-

away Bihać enclave of north-west Bosnia, Sarajevo state radio said Saturday. The Bosnia government claimed seven soldiers loyal to separatist Fikret Abdic died in a counter-offensive southeast of Velika Kladusa.

But the report could not be independently confirmed, and Mr. Abdic's news agency this week has reported victories against Bosnian government troops backing Sarajevo's leadership.

The mainly-Muslim Bosnian army had begun to evacuate Friday night some of the civilians from Bakovici and Fojnica, which are located in mountainous terrain west of Sarajevo.

The towns straddle the front line of a northward offensive launched by Bosnian Croats along with Serb support aimed at securing links with Croat-held Vitez and Kiseljak.

The U.N. is also trying to protect 135 Croat civilians hiding in a basement in Fojnica in fear of reprisals by Muslims who still control the town.

we could be doing that the American public would support. If we were consistent and committed, we would not be doing many of the things we threaten to do," he said, adding that Pyongyang will "probably not" be cowed by U.S. threats and will go ahead with attempts to obtain nuclear weapons.

"Today, if we want to enforce what we want in Haiti. We'll probably have to use power, because until we use it, no one will think we will," he added.

"We have deployed our military power in Somalia, and the local warlords killed scores of Americans and we backed off," he said. "We sent our naval ships to Haiti and Haitian 'brigades' armed with revolvers stormed the port. And our navy pulled back."

"I think there is much more

Brzezinski: Clinton's foreign policy costly in long run

MANILA (AP) — U.S. President Bill Clinton's minimalist foreign policy is bound to be costly in the long run as it will only embolden outcasts like North Korea and Haiti, former national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski said here.

Minimalism "produces the progressive undermining of the credibility of American power," said Mr. Brzezinski, national security advisor under former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, in an interview published in the Manila Chronicle Sunday.

"Failure to respond to the

problem of Bosnia, failure to deal with other trouble spots is likely to produce costs in the long run. Which will be quite high," he said.

Mr. Brzezinski said an "activist" foreign policy was not an argument for "global interventionism" by a United States acting as a world policeman. But one which is "committed to the notion of creating some structure of global or regional... cooperation in the wake of the end of the cold war."

He noted that while the world's remaining superpower

defeated Iraq "very easily, quickly, decisively and at a low cost" in the Gulf War, it has since made military threats against Serbia, but "we have been defied and we have backed off."

"We have deployed our military power in Somalia, and the local warlords killed scores of Americans and we backed off," he said. "We sent our naval ships to Haiti and Haitian 'brigades' armed with revolvers stormed the port. And our navy pulled back."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Mandela: White rights to be guaranteed

INOPO, South Africa (AP) — African National Congress (ANC) President Nelson Mandela Sunday told white farmers in this rural Natal midlands town that their land and future rights were secured. Speaking at a luncheon with white farmers, he said a government of national unity after all-race elections next April would include a number of white political leaders, including President Frederik De Klerk. "If Inkatha Freedom party's President Mangosuthu Buthelezi is able to secure 5 per cent of the vote, even he will be there," he added. Until now, whites in the Inxobo area have been out of the mainstream of South African politics, but last year bitter fighting between ANC and Inkatha erupted in the area. "Whites have had a distorted view of the ANC... and have regarded the organisation as public enemy number one" Mr. Mandela said. "The ANC is the only organisation offering a future which guarantees a security for everyone. The rights of the individuals, including property rights, would be guaranteed by a future ANC government" he said.

Rapprochement unlikely — Buthelezi

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi said a rapprochement between South Africa's government and black and white conservatives boycotting multi-party negotiations would be a miracle. "It is differences of kind rather than of degree. The future that he (President F.W. De Klerk) is mapping out for us is a recipe for disaster," Mr. Buthelezi said in a speech Saturday night. "It will really be a miracle if we find any rapprochement with the South African government." Mr. Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party belongs to the "Freedom Alliance, a loose grouping of pro-apartheid whites and conservative blacks pushing for virtual regional autonomy. For several months, they have been boycotting multi-party negotiations charting the country's transition to majority rule from 350 years of white domination. Despite urgent meetings with the government, the alliance appears unready to

return to the negotiating forum which is due to ratify an interim non-racial constitution this week ahead of a special session of parliament.

25 die as launch capsizes in India

NEW DELHI (AP) — A crowded motorised launch capsized in eastern India Saturday, killing at least 26 people, a news agency reported. The ferry was carrying 90 passengers when it capsized in the delta area where the Ganges River splits into dozens of smaller rivulets before flowing into the Bay of Bengal. The region is about 2,000 kilometres east of New Delhi. The dead included eight children, United News of India said. Most of the passengers swam ashore, Narayan Ghosh, police superintendent of the area, was quoted as saying.

N. Korea warns South of 'miserable end'

TOKYO (AP) — North Korea declared Sunday that planned U.S.-South Korean military exercises recklessly threaten peace and could bring a "miserable end" to South Korea's government. The Communist state's latest warning of war dangers came amid efforts by the South and its Western allies to persuade North Korea to accept international inspections of its nuclear facilities. Despite North Korea's denials, it is suspected of trying to build a nuclear arsenal. The United States and South Korea plan to begin war games Monday involving virtually all of the 36,000 American troops based in the south and the 650,000 South Korean troops. The North's official Central News Agency quoted an unnamed spokesman of the North Korean Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland as saying the exercises show that Washington and Seoul have no intention of trying to solve the nuclear issue through dialogue. "They also reveal of their own accord that they are still intending to stifle our republic by means of military threat and war," the spokesman's statement said.

Hosokawa faces make-or-break test

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, struggling to clear the decks before Friday's Japan-U.S. summit, faces his toughest domestic test as he battles to push through sweeping political reforms and tax changes to fire up the economy.

Mr. Hosokawa, who enjoys a record 70 per cent support rating three months into office, stands to lose heavily if he fails to deliver on an election promise — enacting reforms to the political and electoral system by the end of the year.

Mr. Hosokawa, the liberal-minded leader of an unwieldy eight-group coalition, has promised to take "political responsibility" if he fails, a remark interpreted to mean he will step down or call fresh elections.

As the schedule stands, the reform bills must clear the lower house by Friday — the day Mr. Hosokawa will leave for summit talks in Seattle — if the government hopes to have the package cleared through the upper house by mid-December.

Also looming Friday is a tax reform report that Mr. Hosokawa plans to present to U.S. President Bill Clinton as proof of Japan's efforts to boost economic growth, buy more American imports and cut its chronic trade surplus.

"Hosokawa is facing his biggest challenge since taking office," said Minoru Morita, a political columnist.

"He has to negotiate a compromise deal on political reform with the opposition LDP (Liberal Democratic Party) and make some very difficult decisions on income tax cuts," he said.

"Then he must convince Clinton that his economic measures will help cut Japan's trade surplus with the United States."

Mr. Hosokawa gets down to business Monday when he is due to meet LDP chief Yohei Kono to try to break a deadlock over rival plans for political and electoral reforms, the most comprehensive since those introduced after World War II.

Neither leader wants to be seen as giving in to the other for fear of angering malcontents within their own camps who are said to be contemplating defecting.

In a televised debate Sunday, legislators from both the LDP and the coalition said they had not decided whether to back a compromise plan cobbled together by Mr. Hosokawa and Mr. Kono.

"It was hard enough to get coalition members to agree to the government's proposals,"

said Hajime Ishii of the coalition. "If we make changes now we could face problems within the alliance."

Government spokesman Masayoshi Takemura said if the two sides were unable to reach a compromise, the coalition would make some amendments to its proposals and push them through the lower house this week.

The LDP's top parliamentary negotiator, Yoshiro Mori, warned the coalition it would face strong opposition in the upper house if it resorted to strong-arm actions this week.

"If you push these hills through this chamber, we'll make sure you don't in the upper house," he said in a televised debate Sunday.

The scandal-tainted LDP, toppled from power for the first time in 38 years last August, is aware its rival plan would not survive a vote in the lower house, where all coalition legislators would rally to pass the government proposal. But the coalition is divided in the upper house.

Both the government and the LDP agree on the need to discard multi-seat electoral districts, seen as the root of rampant corruption. But they differ on points such as the seat distribution for single seats and proportional representation.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hata to visit Mideast in January

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata plans to visit Israel, Jordan and Egypt in January to identify ways Japan can contribute to Palestinian self-rule in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank, a newspaper reported Sunday. Japan has pledged \$200 million for Palestinian aid over two years. Mr. Hata wants to be the first Japanese foreign minister to visit Jericho and the West Bank, the Tokyo Shimbun said.

Israeli, SLA forces trade fire with Hizbollah

MARIYOUN, Lebanon (AFP) — Israeli forces and their South Lebanon Army (SLA) allies exchanged fire with Iranian-backed Hizbollah guerrillas in southern Lebanon on Sunday, army and police officials said. A joint Israeli-SLA post at Shumariyah in the centre of Israel's self-declared "security zone" was shelled three times, but there were no casualties, an SLA official said. Hizbollah, which is opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, said there were "several dead and wounded" following the shelling. An Israeli position at Tohra in the same sector also came under fire, while further south anti-tank rockets were fired at SLA positions in Beit Yehoun, Baraachit and Rcheif, but there were no casualties, the SLA source said. Israeli and SLA artillery fired about 50 shells at areas bordering on the "security zone," without inflicting casualties, Lebanese police said.

Tajik refugees resume returning home

DUSHANBE (AFP) — Fundamentalist Muslim Tajiks resumed their return home from Afghanistan Sunday after being delayed for four months because of a cholera epidemic in southern Tajikistan, the Tajik Foreign Ministry said. According to official Tajik figures, some 50,000 Tajiks currently live in Afghanistan after fleeing the country earlier this year to escape the neo-communist regime which came to power in Dushanbe in December 1992. The first convoy transporting some 600 refugees arrived Sunday in Termez, on the border between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan, from where the refugees will be taken to Tajikistan, in an operation being supervised by U.N. observers, the ministry said. Saturday some 109 Afghan soldiers originally from Tajikistan, including three generals, asked for political asylum in Tajikistan after fleeing fighting in the north of Afghanistan. But they were extradited back to Afghanistan in what Tajik officials described as "a goodwill gesture" towards Kabul.

Iran seizes one tonne of morphine

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iranian authorities have seized one-and-a-half tonnes of morphine in southeastern Iran near the border with Pakistan, Iranian dailies reported Sunday. The drug, destined for Europe, was from "international traffickers" in the Mir Javeh region in sistan-Baluchistan province, the reports said. The newspapers gave no details of any arrests. According to official figures, some 47 tonnes of narcotics have been seized in Iran in the past six months, compared with 53.8 tonnes for the whole of 1992. Iran introduced tough anti-drug laws on Jan. 21, 1989, calling for capital punishment for anyone arrested with more than 30 grammes of heroin or five kilograms of opium. More than 2,000 convicted smugglers have been executed since then.

Two freed journalists handed over to Hekmatyar

KABUL (AFP) — Two foreign journalists captured last Monday on a combat zone in east Kabul were transferred Sunday to Charasyab, headquarters of Afghan Prime Minister and Hezb-e-Islami chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a Hezb commander said. Speaking via Radio to Agence France-Presse (AFP), Kasimur Khan, the Hezb leader in east Kabul, said he had sent the two men, New Zealander Terence White of AFP and American John Jennings, of the Associated Press, to Charasyab on the express demand of Mr. Hekmatyar. The two journalists were captured by Hezb-e-Islami south of Tagob 60 kilometres north-east of Kabul, where the two main Mujahedeen factions — Hezb and the forces of former Defence Minister Abdul Wahid Massoud — have been fighting for two weeks. Mr. Jennings sustained slight injuries to his feet during his capture. Mr. White was reported to be in good health. Hezb-e-Islami have given no indication as to where the pair were held since their detention on Nov. 8.

74 Kurdish rebels killed since November 5

ANKARA (AFP) — Seventy four Kurdish rebels have been killed by security forces in southeast Anatolia since Nov. 5, Turkey's Interior Minister Nihat Metin said in a statement on Sunday. He said 160 other people that he called "terrorists" (the official term for separatists) had been seized during the same period, adding that security forces had suffered no casualties. A further 121 people had been arrested for harbouring the rebels, he said. More than 10,280 people — military, police, civilians and rebels — have been killed in the region according to official figures compiled by AFP since the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) declared its armed rebellion against the government in Ankara in 1984.

Storms lash southern Caspian Sea coast

NICOSIA (AP) — Torrential storms lashed the southern Caspian seashore over the weekend, damaging thousands of homes and causing widespread inundation, Iran's official news agency reported Sunday. Gale force winds toppled power lines and damaged some 3,000 homes in the city of Bandar Anzali, where the sea level had risen 63 centimetres. There was no mention of injuries in the Islamic Republic News Agency's (IRNA) dispatches. Mayor B. Behnamju of Bandar Anzali told IRNA that the Beheshti and Taleqani islands and vast areas near the Anzali lagoon were submerged. Heavy flooding was also reported about 200 kilometres east in Nowshahr. IRNA said the storms had washed away several houses and toppled scores of electricity cables. Seven-metre waves crashed onto the shore in Kolachi, about halfway between the two larger cities, cracking a brick barrier and forcing the evacuation of dozens of families, the reports said.

Saudi king pardons 239 Filipino prisoners

DIJIBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has pardoned 239 Filipino prisoners in the kingdom in response to a plea from their embassy, Philippines Ambassador Abraham Rasul said on Sunday. The embassy sent the plea to the king in January 1993, he told Reuters, adding that details of their release and return home still had to be arranged. Diplomats in the kingdom said the prisoners had been jailed for offences like drinking alcohol, embezzlement, theft and adultery. Mr. Rasul said the Saudi Foreign Ministry had sent a letter to the embassy with a list of the names of the 239 pardoned prisoners.

Anger in Britain over Tunisian's asylum

LONDON (R) — British victims of militants who staged a series of bomb attacks on tourists in Tunisia have demanded the government reconsider its decision to give their leader political asylum, the Sunday Telegraph said. Rashid Ghannouchi, 51, Tunisia's Islamic fundamentalist leader, was jailed for life after being convicted of masterminding the bombings in the summer of 1987, but later received a presidential pardon. Five Britons were amongst 13 tourists injured in the attacks on hotels. One victim, a Scottish tourist, lost a foot. "After all the misery he has caused he should not be allowed to remain in this country," Irene Aldred, 65, of Manchester in northern England, who was in one of the bombed hotels, said. Mr. Ghannouchi was given permission in August to live in London after he said his safety could not be guaranteed if he was sent back to Tunisia. "I'm surprised this chap has been granted political asylum given the circumstances of the case," George Iwakura, an opposition Labour Party member of parliament, said.

Elections were fair, free and honest — Hammad

AMMAN (Petra) — Interior Minister Salameh Hammad Saturday reviewed the constitutional and legal procedures followed by the ministry to ensure the fairness and integrity of parliamentary elections.

In a report to the Cabinet, Mr. Hammad said the Nov. 8 elections were carried out in accordance with the one-person, one-vote law, thus ensuring equality among all citizens — voters and candidates.

Mr. Hammad said that the ministry was able, through active follow-up and monitoring, to secure the neutrality of all government departments, employees and all state executive bodies at all levels. The total neutrality of the government system and the integrity and fairness of elections, were ensured, he said.

The election process was conducted smoothly and freely without any obstacles or any intervention from any individual or party, the report said.

Describing the measures taken by the Ministry of Interior to avoid duplication of voter names, Mr. Hammad said the ministry had verified voter registration lists following the discovery at an early stage of duplication of names. The ministry went a step further by requesting all voters to produce their identity cards prior to casting their votes, he said.

The minister said the vote-counting process took place under the supervision of central committees known for their ability, integrity and honesty, in the presence of the candidates themselves or their representatives. After verification, results of the count were sent by computer to the minister who announced them on Nov. 9.

Mr. Hammad said all observers and foreign journalists had attested to the accuracy and integrity of elections in their reports.

The elections, Mr. Hammad



Salameh Hammad

said, were characterised by honesty, fairness, freedom, free and honest competition, good organisation and order.

Even several candidates who lost praised the supervisors of the election process, and said the process itself was smooth, easy-going and accurate. They also congratulated their winning colleagues to show their

good spirit and respect for the democratic process, Mr. Hammad said.

The report said that a very small minority started hurting themselves and their reputation by embarking on behaviours contradicting with the democratic spirit which the vast majority of the Jordanian people has demonstrated.

They attempted to fabricate reasons to justify their failure and put the blame on others, it said.

Commenting on results of the elections, the report said the Islamic Action Front (IAF) scored 16 seats.

The remaining parties did not score sufficient numbers of seats to qualify them to become influential parliamentary pressure bases even though they scored 14 seats altogether.

The Jordan National Alliance Party scored four seats, Al Ahd (three), Al Yakatha (two), Al Mustakbal (one), the Jordan Arab Party (one), the Jordan Arab

National Democratic Party (one), the Jordan Communist Party (one), and the Jordan Democratic Peoples Party (one).

Political parties, including the IAF, won a total 30 seats, while other groupings which are not licensed as parties won nine seats.

These include the Muslim Brotherhood (two), independent Islamists (three), Arab Nationalists (two) and the leftists (two) seats.

The report added that Jordanian nationalists and independents won 41 seats, including 28 by Jordanian nationalists as individuals and 13 by independents.

Of the total 80 Lower House members in the 12th Parliament, 14 Jordanians are of Palestinian origin, the majority of whom belong to the IAF.

The majority of the leftists and Arab nationalists are of Jordanian origin, and the majority of party candidates who won, excluding the IAF, are of Jordanian origin.

Hezb Al Tahrir leaders freed from custody

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Several hardline Islamists held on suspicion of subversion and illegal political activities have been released after several months of detention, one of the released detainees said Sunday.

Eight or nine suspects were released in the course of the last two weeks, and two members of the Hezb Al Tahrir Al Islami (Islamic Liberation Party — ILP) were freed Saturday afternoon from the General Intelligence Department, said Ata Abu Risteh, a spokesman for the ILP who was arrested in May.

Mr. Abu Risteh said he and party activist Bakr Khawaldeh were released together. He said he believed other ILP members, detained in a period of three months after he and Mr. Khawaldeh were arrested, remained in custody.

"I am not sure how many are held since my information is sketchy since I was released only yesterday," Mr. Abu Risteh told the Jordan Times. "But the information available to me indicates that at least eight of our members are still in detention."

No official comment was immediately available.

Mr. Abu Risteh and Mr. Khawaldeh were arrested in the third week of May, more than one month after a group of students of the Muta Uni-

versity in the south and several Hezb Al Tahrir activists were rounded up on charges of plotting to assassinate the King during a June 26 graduation ceremony at the university.

"It was proved to our interrogators we had no links to any plot or action against the Jordanian government," Mr. Abu Risteh told the Jordan Times.

"We were detained apparently because our organisation was not licensed under Jordanian laws and regulations."

Ten people, five of them Muta students, another ex-student and four others — two of them in absentia — are being tried at the State Security Court charged with "plotting against the life of" King Hussein, and conspiracy to rewrite the constitution through violent means.

They are also charged with belonging to an organisation which is not legalised under the Kingdom's laws. All of them have pleaded not guilty and the defence is presenting its case to the court.

Mr. Abu Risteh and Mr. Khawaldeh were not charged in the case, but they were called as witnesses for the defence while in detention at the General Intelligence Department.

Both of them testified that they knew nothing of the assassination plot and that they

were being held for illegal political activities.

They admitted that their party ideology called for the establishment of an Islamic caliphate but that they were not planning subversion in Jordan since they felt the Kingdom was not the ideal place to launch an Islamic caliphate.

They told the court that they did not apply for legal recognition for Hezb Al Tahrir Al Islami under the Kingdom's new political parties law enacted last year because the law did not permit any parties to have external links.

Mr. Abu Risteh told the court that Hezb Al Tahrir had relations with many other groups bearing the same name outside Jordan, including Germany, and as such, it did not want to apply for legalisation in the Kingdom.

In his testimony, Mr. Abu Risteh, a civil engineer operating a building design and consultancy office in Russeifeh northeast of Amman, said he knew only defendant in the case.

Hezb Al Tahrir, which does not recognise any of the Arab regimes and advocate the establishment of an Islamic caliphate, was founded by Sheikh Nouredine Nabhani in the West Bank in 1951.

While the party does not publicly advocate the use of violence to achieve its objective, experts on its ideology say

that the group adopts a strategy of enlisting highly influential leaders of the society and members of the security forces to stage coup d'etats.

A Jordan chapter of Hezb Al Tahrir was established in 1952, and Sheikh Nabhani won a seat in the Jordanian Parliament on a Hezb Al Tahrir Party ticket in 1956. He fled Jordan shortly after King Hussein banned political parties following a leftist coup attempt in 1957.

Sheikh Nabhani died in Lebanon in the early 1970s. His party was implicated in an aborted coup plot in 1978.

Mr. Abu Risteh and Mr. Khawaldeh have a record of crossing paths with the security forces and have both been detained at least three times each at varying occasions since the 1980s.

Mr. Abu Risteh hit the headlines during the Gulf crisis when he was detained after a press conference where he said the Arabs would be justified if they attacked foreigners in retaliation for any allied attack on Iraq. He was released after an overnight detention.

Mr. Abu Risteh said Sunday he was treated well in detention. He and his colleague had told the State Security Court that they were treated well during their detention period. He said he did not know the background of other suspects released in the last two weeks.

Legislature to meet

(Continued from page 1)

Monday's polls, Jordan's first multiparty elections since 1956, also produced the Kingdom's first woman parliamentarian, Toujan Faisal.

Ms. Faisal, who has had a running battle with Islamic hardliners who condemned her liberal views, is opposed to the peace process in its present format. Observers consider her mostly as a leftist.

Isbak Al Farhan, secretary-general of the IAF, vowed last week that his group was dedicated to opposing any peace accord with Israel and was seeking to form a coalition to defeat peace moves with the Jewish state.

It is not known who from the House would join such a coalition, given that the political platforms of most of the others are very much in line with Jordan's commitment to the peace process. If anything, many of the new deputies are expected to assume a low-profile approach to foreign policy issues while focusing more attention on the needs of their constituents.

"But that is no consolation," said a former senior official. "Democracy has to take its course and the government has to go through the paces of placing every issue on the table in parliament and let the people's representatives decide."

"Behind-the-scene deals have to be and will be made between the government and deputies, but then that is the norm of democracy," he added.

Netanyahu

(Continued from page 1)

it thinks it can push the Arabs into renouncing their land and rights," he said, adding that the Jewish state "has never demonstrated it was bound to the principles of the peace process," set by the Madrid conference of October 1991.

While going along with the peace process, in which it does not quite believe, Syria has begun to build a coalition including Hizbollah, Palestinian dissidents grouped in the "National Democratic Islamic Front," Iran and Iraq to counter what the Syrians see as an emerging alliance between the PLO, Israel and Egypt. A diplomat said that Damascus wanted Jordan to join this coalition as well. The Syrians believe that a tripartite alliance between Israel, Egypt and the PLO could enable Israel, through its Arab allies, to dominate the entire region politically and economically if there were not some sort of countervailing grouping in the hinterland. A Syrian ministerial delegation, reportedly, visited Baghdad at the end of October.

Algerian sweep nets hundreds of suspects

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algerian security forces have stepped up crackdown on extremists since the release of three kidnapped French consular workers, arresting hundreds of people nationwide in the past two weeks.

Some 200 people were detained early Saturday in the latest sweep by Algerian government forces of known fundamentalist strongholds.

The sweep was launched before dawn in the Blecourt district of the city, around the area of the "Kabul" mosque, a stronghold of the extremist group known as "Afghans"

composed of veterans from the war in Afghanistan.

The "Afghans" form the hardcore of the Islamic Armed Group which claimed responsibility for seizing three French consular workers last month.

A similar sweep two weeks ago in the eastern district of the capital led to the release immediately afterwards of the three hostages on Oct. 30 and 31.

On Tuesday, France took similar action, detaining some 88 suspected Algerian fundamentalists throughout France in apparent reprisal for Muslim fundamentalist threats

against French nationals in Algeria (see page 2).

Although there has been no official total of those rounded up in Algeria, the independent press said it marked a "new offensive strategy" by security forces, in a bid to prevent the rebels from getting the upper hand.

But despite the crackdown, new offences occur daily which have been blamed on the rebels.

When Prime Minister Redha Malek came to power in August, he pledged a crackdown on militants who have waged a rebellion against the military-

backed government since January 1992 after it cancelled elections that the now-banned Islamic Salvation Front was poised to win.

A founding member of the FIS has been kidnapped by a group that has vowed to strike against extremists, the prosecutor's office here said Sunday.

Mohammad Tidjini Boudjelkha, a mathematics lecturer at Algiers' Bab Al Zouar university, was kidnapped on Nov. 8 after gunmen claiming to be police officers burst into his home at 10:00 p.m.

Syria holding out to secure its own terms for peace

From Michael Jansen in Damascus

WHILE ASKING Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to put forward "new ideas" to break the deadlock in negotiations with Syria, U.S. President Bill Clinton offered Israel increased technological and military aid to encourage Israel to take "risks for peace."

Mr. Clinton has done this because, he, as the major sponsor of the peace process, cannot, personally, take the risk in terms of public perception of a major foreign policy failure which the collapse of peace process would entail. The Syrians and Israelis have reached agreement on sovereignty over the Golan and security arrangements, two out of the three issues on which they have been negotiating. Their bilateral talks have been stalled on the third issue, the extent of Israeli withdrawal from occupied Syrian territory.

It is not "new ideas" which would break the deadlock, but meeting Syria's traditional demand that Israel commit itself to "full withdrawal" from the Golan. Syria has said that it would not be prepared to resume bilateral negotiations in Washington unless "progress" on this issue is guaranteed by the

U.S. This commitment, asserted a Syrian spokesman, must come directly from Israel and be made public. A covert Israeli commitment to recognise Syrian "sovereignty" over the whole of the Golan made in a letter from Mr. Rabin and, allegedly, handed to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad last month by U.S. State Department coordinator Dennis Ross did not break the impasse over the issue of the extent of Israeli withdrawal. But the fact that Israel was prepared to concede sovereignty encouraged the Syrians to stand firm on withdrawal. They believe they have a very strong card to play in the bilateral negotiations game because talks cannot resume without them. Neither Lebanon, nor Syrian protection, nor Jordan would attend without Syria.

Israel has been reluctant to make the necessary commitment on withdrawal because Mr. Rabin claims the Israeli people must "digest" the PLO-Israeli self-government accord signed in September. Popular support from the accords has, reportedly, dropped from over 60 to 30 per cent in the eight weeks since the signing on the White House lawn. Syria, said a source in Damascus, understood Israel's position

but was impatient because there was no question in the Madrid formula of postponement of negotiations so one side or the other could "digest" concessions made in implementation of resolutions 242 and 338.

While making no public commitment, Israel has reportedly, submitted to Syria a map showing the lines to which its army would withdraw in stages. But the final frontier would leave the Golan's water sources under Israeli control, a proposition which Damascus could not accept.

A Syrian source said that the whole regional peace process would turn on the question of water resources, in Syria, Jordan, Palestine and Lebanon. Israel could not dominate these resources or be allowed to take what it wanted at the expense of its neighbours. There had to be equitable sharing of the water.

The source also stated that Syria would not permit Turkey to pipe water, which the Syrians considered to be their share from the headwaters of the Euphrates, across Syrian territory to Israel, an item believed to be on the agenda of Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, during his current visit in the Jewish state.

On the third item on the Syrian-Israeli agenda — security arrangements — agreement is said to have been reached some time ago on an international peace force which would be under U.N. auspices but comprised mainly of U.S. troops with smaller contingents from European and, perhaps, Afro-Asian countries.

Although Syria can afford to wait for a diplomatic breakthrough in the bilateral talks, Damascus is fearful that Israel could, in the absence of a settlement, launch a military campaign against Lebanon on a pretext provided by the pro-Iranian Hizbollah militia or Palestinian dissidents based in the Syrian capital. Israel's latest bombardment of southern Lebanon, driving out more than 300,000 of its inhabitants, occasioned serious grumbling in Beirut about Damascus' apparent inability to protect Lebanon from Israeli military action and reduced Damascus' political credibility. To prevent a repeat of the bombardments, Syria has, according to a diplomatic informant, blocked Iranian shipments of armaments to Hizbollah and curbed the activities of the 10 Islamist and leftist Palestinian factions under its control. Hizbollah seemed to be responding to

Syrian and Lebanese concerns. Hizbollah Secretary General Sayed Hassan Nasrallah told Robert Fisk of the Independent last week that once Israel withdrew from the occupation zone in South Lebanon, the movement would disband its militia and cease attacks against Israel. This amounted to abandonment of Hizbollah's policy of "liberating" the whole of Palestine, especially Jerusalem, from Israeli rule.

While going along with the peace process, in which it does not quite believe, Syria has begun to build a coalition including Hizbollah, Palestinian dissidents grouped in the "National Democratic Islamic Front," Iran and Iraq to counter what the Syrians see as an emerging alliance between the PLO, Israel and Egypt. A diplomat said that Damascus wanted Jordan to join this coalition as well. The Syrians believe that a tripartite alliance between Israel, Egypt and the PLO could enable Israel, through its Arab allies, to dominate the entire region politically and economically if there were not some sort of countervailing grouping in the hinterland. A Syrian ministerial delegation, reportedly, visited Baghdad at the end of October.

COLUMBIA

Editor fired for wrong report of queen mom's death

LONDON (AP) — videotape editor has lost job after he started a chain of events that led to an Australian television station broadcast — erroneously — that Queen Elizabeth II were dead for the real thing. News spokeswoman Sally Newman said the station had been carrying out the standard procedure common to all broadcasters of preparing an obituary "A staff member wrote what was going on," she said. The employee telephoned, mother in Australia and her the queen mother died. His mother called local Australian radio station which broadcast the news which was then picked up by national Australian television. The false report broadcast to thousands of Australian viewers. "The fact any news organisation to carry a story of this magnitude without corroboration is a lamentable journalistic," said Frykberg of Sky News, referring to the Australian television's broadcast. Cham Seven in Sydney apologised within minutes after realising its mistake. "Nothing a broadcast on Sky, Ms. Ong said.

German magazine to use human blood as ink

BONN (AP) — A prominent newspaper is using women blood as ink in its magazine section next week to denounce violence against women in the war in Yugoslavia. A usual red headline on the cover of the magazine, based in Munich, will be replaced in next Friday's edition with a bloodstained headline by eight women. "I want to do something as shocking as the issue itself," said American artist Jenny Holzer, who signed the cover. The cover will appear on the magazine's annual edition devoted to women.

Sukarno's widow fires back at critics of photos

JAKARTA (AFP) — widow of former President Sukarno fired back at Indonesians who have criticised her for posing nude for a pictorial book, saying they should instead find the courage to criticise "those who are privy to the country." Dewi Sukarno, 53, the former first lady, told AFP the Indonesian government, which has threatened to revoke her nationality, had reason to do so. On Thursday the day after Mrs. Sukarno arrived here, the government banned a book of nude photos of her and warned through Indonesian News Agency Antara, that people who bore the name of the country abroad can lose their nationality.

Mrs. Sukarno countered: "I would hope them that they would be big enough... to express themselves more freely for important things. There are certain people... who are valuing this country. They nothing they don't own."

Reporters stake out London clinic in search of Jackson

LONDON (AP) — A psychiatric clinic has been besieged by reporters as rumours that missing superstar Michael Jackson is receiving treatment there. Jackson has not been seen in public since he cut short his Dangerous world concert tour Friday saying he plans to get treatment for an addiction to painkillers. News reports say he left Mexico City for London, possibly, Switzerland where his friend, actress Elizabeth Taylor, owns a clinic. Jackson is under psychiatric treatment, which provides rehabilitation treatment, recent Saturday night. "I don't confirm or deny Michael Jackson is in the clinic," intake manager Keith told a group of Associated Press photographers. Gist at reporters gathered near the clinic's entrance. Ms. Piddly, who handles patient admissions, added with a smile, sorry this is giving you such a long night.